



HISTORY OF NALAGARH STATE



A Dissertation submitted to
THE PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA
in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY
in
HISTORY
1981

Supervised by
Dr. KIRPAL SINGH

Submitted by
HARPREET KAUR

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Certified that Miss Harpreet Kaur, student of M.Phil (History) class of the Punjabi University Patiala has worked under my guidance and that the accompanying dissertation entitled "History of Nalagarh State" which she has submitted, is her genuine work. It is based on the primary and secondary sources and is fit for evaluation for the degree of Master of Philosophy.

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May 31, 1981

P R E F A C E

The history of Nalagarh State is important because of various reasons. Nalagarh State was one of the leading states of Simla Hills. Before the advent of British, its history is interwoven with the history of Sikh Gurus especially of Guru Hargobind and Guru Gobind Singh. We find its mention prominently by Guru Gobind Singh in Bachittar Natak. During the Gurkha war Nalagarh was made the base by the British for fighting against the Gurkhas.

While selecting the topic for my dissertation my supervisor and teacher inquired about my family background. When I told him that we belonged to Nalagarh state, he immediately suggested this topic. My father and I were happy at the choice of this topic since he had started his service career in Nalagarh state. Moreover our ancestors were prominent officers of the State in the ~~the~~ British days.

No scientific account of Nalagarh history is available. The Griffin's account of the 'Chiefs and Families of the State' and in the 'Rajas of the Punjab' is too brief. The historical account given by the courtiers is shrouded in mythology ^{and} is lopsided hence it does not give us a clear historical perspective.

An attempt has been made to delineate the history of the state in following chapters: The first chapter

deals with the Introduction, general background and topographical details, the second deals with origin and establishment of State, third deals with the evolution of State and fourth^{and fifth} deals with the Relations of the State with the Sikhs and the British respectively. The last chapter deals with the administration of the last ruler and few conclusions have been drawn at the end.

I feel privileged in acknowledging with a sense of gratitude the personal attitude, masterly guidance and unfailing encouragement rendered to me by my worthy teacher and guide Dr. Kirpal Singh. But for his supervision, my studies could not have been completed. I am thankful to my respected teacher, Dr. S.S. Bal, Head of the Department of History, Punjabi University, Patiala, Dr. A.C. Arora, Dr. S.K. Bajaj and Dr. S.D. Pradhan for their valuable suggestions. I am also thankful to my departmental library, Punjabi University Library, Central State Public Library Patiala, Punjab State Archives Library, Patiala, Punjab University Library, Chandigarh and Government Museum and Art Gallery Library, Chandigarh.

I am grateful to my father S. Mahan Singh for his encouragement and help in reading to^{and} the Urdu material in the Punjab State Archives, Mr. Hans Raj Dewan, Librarian, Punjab State Archives, Patiala for his personal

interest and also for helping me to collect material from history of Nalagarh state in Urdu and Dr. Bakshish Singh Nijjar, Director of Archives and his staff for locating relevant material. In the end I would like to thank my sincere friends and all those who have given me their invaluable advise and help towards the completion of my studies. Notwithstanding my gratitude to all mentioned above, I accept full responsibility for any faults and shortcomings that may be found in this work.

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C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER	PAGE
I Introduction	1
II Early History and Its Establishment	10
III Evolution of the State from 1100 A.D. onward	19
IV Relations with the Sikhs 1618 A.D. to 1813 A.D.	39
V Relations with the British 1813 A.D. to 1911 A.D.	66
VI Raja Jogindra Singh's Administration 1912-1946 A.D.	86
VII Conclusions	101
Appendix I Genealogy of the Rajas of Malagarh...	108
Appendix II Sanads granted to Malagarh Chiefs...	110
Appendix III Translation of a Sanad 29th Oct..... 1846	113
Appendix IV Translation of a Sanad 19th Jan..... 1860	117
Appendix V Adoption Sanad 5th March 1862.....	119
Bibliography	120

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Nalagarh was a very small state but it had considerable importance. It was one of those states which were in direct political relations with the government of India. ¹ It made considerable contribution

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1. (i) Chiefs and Families of note in the Punjab, Vol. II, Lepal Griffin Lahore, 1940, p. 537
(ii) Government Gazetteer Extraordinary- Punjab and its dependencies, Lahore, Friday, October 2, 1936. Political Department, Indian States Ist October, 1936. No. 7788 PG 36/29246.

It is announced that His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the proposals of the government of India for placing the States of Bashahr with its tributaries (Khaneti and Delath), Nalagarh, Keonthal with its tributaries (Koti, Theog, Madhan, Ghund and Katesh), Kalsia, Pataudi, Dujana, Baghal, Jubbal with its tributaries (Rawingarh and Dhedi), Baghat, Kumharsain, Bhajji, Mahilgarh, Baisan, Dhami, Kuthar, Kunihar, Mangal, Beja, Darkoti, Tharoch and Sangri, in direct political relations with the government of India acting through the Agent to the Governor General, Punjab States, with effect from Ist October 1936.

The connection between the Punjab government and these states has subsisted from time when the province was first constituted and in relinquishing his connection with them. His Excellency the Governor wishes to place on public record his deep appreciation of the valuable assistance continuously rendered by these states since the establishment of British authority in the province, of their traditional loyalty and of the cordial manner in which they have conducted business to express his government. In bidding them an official farewell Sir Herbert Emerson desires to express his assured confidence that in the future as in the past they will maintain their unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King, Emperor and that, whenever and wherever opportunity may occur for service to India or to the Empire, they will prove true to their old traditions.

F.H. PUCKLE

Chief Secretary to Government
Punjab.

in the first and second great wars.¹ later on it was one of the constituent states of Patiala and East Punjab States Union. Nalagarh state was by far the oldest state in the Union. It became one of the pillars in the formation of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union which comprised of eight states of Patiala, Nabha, Kapurthala, Jind, Faridkot, Malerkotla, Kalsia and Nalagarh. In this union the Nalagarh and Malerkotla states were the only Hindu Rajput and Muslim Afghan state respectively. All these states welded together² into a non-communal brotherhood of Punjab.

1. (i) The then ruling chief, Raja Jogindra Singh offered his personal services in war. Besides the state used to pay Rs. 5000/- annually as a tribute to the British Government. The State supplied 209 recruits, contributed Rs. 21,150 to war funds and charities (including Rs. 3,000 to the Aeroplane fund and Rs. 1,800 to the Imperial relief fund and Rs. 4500 to the General war fund and invested Rs. 2,25,000 in the war loans. The Punjab and War, M.S. Leigh, Lahore, 1922, p. 102.
 (ii) Raja Jogindra Singh helped the government generously during the 1st great war, both with men and money. He brought war bonds worth Rs. 22,50,000 besides supplying 220 recruits and meeting their expenses. Sinla Past and Present by Edward J. Buck Hind Ed. Bombay 1925. p. 248.
2. Historical background of Pargu- A Punjab feature in the Tribune, 1st November 1956, V.D. Dev.

The Nalagarh State is situated in the foothills of Shivalik range of the Himalayas. In the words of a British traveller, "the Nalagarh town is at the very edge of the mountains." Now it is a part of district Solan of modern Himachal Pradesh. The State laid between $30^{\circ} 54$ and $31^{\circ} 14$ N and $76^{\circ} 39$ and $76^{\circ} 56$ E with the area of more than 250 square miles. It was bounded on the north by Bilaspur (Kahlur State) and Una of modern Himachal Pradesh. On the east by Mahlog and on the south by Kharar of modern Ropar district and on the west by Ropar district itself.

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1. Himalayan Art, J.C. French, London, 1931, p. 99.
 2. The total area of the State is given different in different books.
 - (i) The Tribune Nov. 1, 1956- The area given is 276 square miles.
 - (ii) Narash Weekly Vol. No. 23 Proprietor Makhan Singh Ferozpur Cantt. 10 August 1945- the area given is 276 square miles.
 - (iii) Simla Past and Present p. 247- The area given is 250 square miles.
 But in other books the area given is 256 square miles.
 - (i) The Punjab North West Frontier Province and Kashmir by Sir James Douie, Cambridge University 1916, p. 287- The area given is 256 square miles
 - (ii) Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial series Punjab Vol. II Calcutta 1908, p. 378, 79- The area given is 256 square miles.
 - (iii) Taraikh-e-Riazat Nalagarh, Lala Bihari Lal Extra Assistant Commissioner (Revenue Deptt.) Distt. Hoshiarpur, (Sargoda), 1929- the area given is 256 square miles. In preface of the book the author of the book claims that his work is mainly based upon old state records. Besides this in government official record the area of Nalagarh state is 256 square miles. That is why we can consider it correct and can say that the area of the Nalagarh state is more than 250 square miles.

The present name of the state Nalagarh was not prevalent until the 15th century.¹ Before this the old name of the state was after its Brahmin ruler Thakur Handu.² So it was called Handur. It was called Nalagarh because the site of the town of Nalagarh was a dry torrent bed. According to another version the very ancient name of the state was Naggarh. It was believed by the local people that the State was the capital of Sheshnag³ (Big cobra) and the surrounded areas were full of snakes or it must have been inhabited by the Nag tribe. It appears that the name of the State changed with the passage of time and became Nalagarh instead of Naggarh. Had it been the capital of Sheshnag, snake worship would have been popular there. Whereas only one or two shrines of Guga-⁴ Pir in village Manpur and Nalagarh were in existence. It appears that the legend of Sheshnag has been based on Hindu mythology.

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1. Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. VIII Part A. Lahore 1934, Chapter I.
 2. Handur is written differently in different books. Like Hindoor, Handur- and Handoor. Its rulers were called Handuria from Handur- Encyclopaedia of Sikh Literature, Language Department Punjab (Patiala) 1960, p. 913.
 3. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur, Balak Ram Urdu 1895, p.5
 4. A snake God which is popularly worshipped by Hindus and Muslims in Punjab.

The Nalagarh State was divided equally into two tracts, the hills and the plains, which were called Pahar and Des tracts respectively in the local dialect of the hills. A British traveller J.C. French, who had widely travelled the hill states of Punjab has also written about the site of Nalagarh. In his words, "Half of the Nalagarh is a hill state, the rest is the ordinary plains country of northern India"¹. The hill tract had three parganas, Chamba or Kundu, Malaon and Hamgarh. The plain tract had four paraganas, Dharmpur, Nalagarh, Palasi and Gullarwala. The hill tract was of the usual character of lower Simla hills. The plain tract laid in the Dun (north side of Nalagarh) between the Shivalik range and the hills proper. And parts of it were extremely fertile.

Physical features effected the course of the State history. It helped greatly in increasing the state income. The hilly areas of the Nalagarh state were covered with valuable forests. The state had a separate well-organised forest department in the reign of Raja Joginder Singh (1911-1946). The state was also known for its valuable stone quarries which were used for the construction of building bridges especially Sirhind canal

1. Himalayan Art. p. 99

and headworks of the Satluj valley projects (Bhakra
¹
 Dam project). The state benefitted by its natural
 resources.

The main stream of the state was Sirsa,² which
 had its sources in the hills above Kalka and runs north-
 west along the base of the Shivaliks, eventually jointing
 the Sutlej at Awankot, in the Ropar district. It runs
 along its course by other streamlets descending from
 the hills, the principal of which in Malagarh were from
 east to west the Ballad, the Palli, the Khari, the
 Khokra, the Chikni, the Kundlu streams and also by the
 Kanahan stream which rises in the Shivaliks and joins
 Sirsa. The irrigation derived from these streams was
 uncertain because these streams were at their lowest
 ebb when the water was most needed. So the irrigation
 work of cultivated lands was dependent on the rainfall
 in the hills because the sources of irrigation were
 small streams which were entirely based on rainfall in
 the upper hills. An irrigation work of former renowned
 and historic interest was the Kala Kund reservior,
 formed by a barrier across the Kala Kund valley, fifteen

-
1. Simla Past & Present, pp 247-48
 2. Now in Ropar district. A historic stream because
 a battle of Nirmohgarh between Guru Gobind Singh and
 hill chiefs was fought on its banks. Guru and his
 family were departed from this very place.

miles to the north-west of Malagarh. It was said to have been originally constructed by the Pandavas and was restored by Raja Sansar Chand in 1618 A.D.¹

The Malagarh state was mainly dependent upon agriculture which was done in plains as well as in hilly tracts. Especially the lands in plains were so fertile that well manured and irrigated land often produced three crops in a year.

The hills in the state consist of two well defined ridges running from south-east to north-west. The two ridges had 4,446 feet height, above the sea level. On either sides of hills there was a river known as Gambhar. On the northern and eastern side of hills there were the ruins of two forts namely Surajgarh and Malaon. Most of the forts of the State were in the hill tract. Kangarh and Chamba were the two important forts of the hill tract, which were constructed in their respective parganas. In plain tract there were also forts namely Palasi and Gullarwala. In a way the hill tract helped the state chiefs to defend their state.

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1. Gazetteer of the Simla Hill States, pp 1-2.
 2. Punjab States Gazetteer PP 1-2.
 3. A partly dry stream which often raised in the rainy season.

In the end of nineteenth century Kanet tribe was in the bulk of majority and most of cultivated areas both in hills as well as in plains were owned by this tribe.¹ Most of the hilly and plain areas were cultivated by proprietors themselves. There were no occupancy tenants. Besides Kanets, Rajputs, Gujjars, Sainis, Jats, Brahmans and Chumars were the principal tribes in the State.² The Jats and Sainis were Sikh tribes and others were Hindus. The Sainis especially excelled as agriculturists. Though their holdings were small still they devoted themselves successfully to the more valuable and commercial crops like tobacco, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane, the produce of which they exported. The state was known for the production of rice and mash. The inhabitants of the state were backward because of the lack of education.³ In the very beginning we do not get any records of State education. But later on in 1877 A.D. in the reign of Raja Isri Singh a school with a single teacher was started, ~~and in 1880~~.

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1. The detail history of this tribe is given in the third chapter- Evolution of State.
 2. Tribes and Castes in Minor hill States based on the enumeration of tribal and caste sub-division at the census of February 1881.
 3. Nalagarh School file- Education records. Basta No. 14. File No. 4, 1921, Punjab State Archives, Patiala. Educationally the Simla Hill States were most backward.

The headquarters of the state was at Malagarh proper. Although the residences of the different Kings were at different places like Palasi and Ramgarh at different times.

The scope of this thesis is to give a brief history of Malagarh state from its origin to 1948 A.D when the state merged into Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

C H A P T E R I I

Early History and Its Establishment

The origin of the Nalagarh state is shrouded in mystery. The ruling family of the state belonged to the¹ Chanderbansi clan of Rajputs. The Rajputs were originally divided into two principal and co-ordinate branches styled² Surajbansi or Solar race and Chanderbansi or Lunar race. James Tod has given a very detailed history of Surajbansi³ and Chanderbansi clans in his book. According to him both⁴ these tribes were divided into thirty six royal tribes and afterwards these thirty six tribes were further divided into many sub-castes or tribes. According to Hindu mythology "Chandrama" (moon) was born to Maharishi Attri who was believed to be one of those ten Rishis, the first

1. His Imperial Majesty George V, K.R. Khosla, Lahore 1937, p. 193.
According to the Sherring, "the Rajpoots like the Brahmins were once very powerful and influential. They were the principal rulers of India. Among the noble houses of the nations of the earth, there are none that can boast of a longer pedigree than the Rajpoots of India".
2. Hindu Tribes and Castes, M.A. Sherring London, 1872 Chapter I, Social Position of Rajpoots, p. 48
3. Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan or the central and western Rajput States of India Vol. I by James Tod, London, 1829, p. 80
4. Sherring has also given the elaboration of thirty six tribes.

creation of God Brahma¹ in the universe. In this way, after Chandrama's name Chanderbansi² clan came into being.

The rulers of Malagarh state were Chandels by caste, a branch of Chanderbansis.³ According to Sherring, "This tribe of Rajpoots is found in parts of north western provinces. Its original seat is Bundhelkhand,⁴ where the city of Mahoba was the capital of its territory". And in the lower Doab's says Wilson, "They are divided into four tribes bearing the several designations of a ruler or king as Raja, Rao, Rana and Rawat".⁵ H.A. Rose in his Glossary of castes and Tribes has counted this tribe as the first grade Rajputs. He has given elaborate

1. According to Hindu mythology the whole universe is under the three Gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. God Brahma is creator of this universe, where as Vishnu is survivor and Mahesh is destructor respectively.
2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Malagarh Bihari Lal (Urdu), p.3,4
3. Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab, p.537
4. Encyclopaedia of Sikh literature by Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha, Language Department Punjab, Patiala, 1961. P. 660. Bundhelkhand-Areas between Jamuna and Chambal river of the northern India region. Previously it consisted five British districts, thirty one local states. The area of Bundhelkhand is 20,449 square miles. Now, local states are in the central Indian agency and British areas are in U.P. state (Utter Pradesh). The name of the province was after Budhel Rajputs who were dominant there.
5. Hindu Tribes and Castes, p. 180

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classification.

The Early History

The early history of the area is not known. Before the coming of the Rajputs who established their rule in this region, this place (Handur) Kohistan was ruled by small chiefs who were known as Madi or Rind, which means petty chiefs. They had divided the whole Kohistan area in small regions and they were ruling in a democratic way. Every region was ruled by one Kabila or tribe and every tribe had its own chief. These people were highly influenced by Aryan civilization. The four varnas division according to the Dharm Shashtra of Manoo was prevalent in them. It appears that Aryans had conquered them with the power of sword and these people were considered as Shudras. These lower classes were working under the tribal chiefs as forced labourers. The chiefs used to give them land without tax in lieu of their services which they rendered to their chiefs in peace and war times.

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1. A Glossary of Tribes and Castes of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, H.A. Rose Vol.III L-Z with Appendices A.L, Lahore, 1914, p. 284-First Grade Rajputs containing 13 classes. First Grade Rajputs- 1. Katoch, 2.Goleria. 3.Jaswal. 4. Sibia. 5.Dadhwal, but the last four are mere offshoots of the first. To these are added Kahluria, Kotlehria, Hinduria, Sirmuria, Mankotia, Mandialia and Dadwal. All these are territorial designations-Mandialia- Mandi, Kahluria of Kahlur (Bilaspur), Hinduria of Hindur (Nalagarh), Mankotia of Mankot, Sirmuria of Sirmur (Nahan), Kotlehria of Kotlehr.
 2. Taraikh-e-Risalat Nalagarh, Bihari Lal, p. 50
 3. Ibid, p. 50-51.
 4. Ibid.

Most of the area covered with forests, was scarcely populated and not much agriculture was done in those places. In most of the areas there were huts of gypsies and shephards etc. Small forts for the protection of tribal people were built by the tribal chiefs. Every chief was in possession of his own fort and his rule was limited to a few miles. The life style of these people was like the people of north western Indian borders where Baloch and Pathans were chiefs of their own tribes. The main occupation of these tribal people was to cultivate the land or to make the forests clear for the agricultural purposes. They used to graze their cattle in the surrounding areas.

These tribal people who were residing in the Nalagarh area in scattered places mainly depended on loot and plunder. They never paid revenue or any other tax to any one. As they believed in Gods and Goddesses¹ they used to present a share of their produce to them. The then ruling family did not interfere in the land affairs of these people in the very beginning but later on they fixed very small amount as land revenue, the

1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh pp 51-52

payment of which was made compulsory. The conquerors tried to decrease the power of the conquered, when they came fully under their control, they became the subjects of the conquerors.

The Nalagarh area was ruled in the earliest known history by one Handu, a Brahmin. So the area was known by the name of Handur from its ruler, Handu. Handur is said to have been the original name. Uptil the time of Gurn Gobind Singh (1675-1708) this name was popular as it has been mentioned in the Bachitar Natak. Handu established his power over the local chiefs and made¹ Handur, in Pargana Gullarwala his capital. Gradually more territories were conquered and added to the State.² Thus it became wider.

Establishment of the Rajput State

The Rajput rulers of Handur state were related to the rulers of Kahlur state. It is very interesting to note that traditionally the three hill states of Kahlur (Bilaspur) Handur (Nalagarh) and Chanehni in Jammu all claim the same origin and they appear to have the common ancestors.³ The forefathers of these states had

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1. Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. VIII Part A
Gazetteers of the Simla Hill States- (Chapter I)
General, Section A. p. 1.
 2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh- p. 52
 3. The History of Punjab Hill States, Hutchison, P. 579.

descended from ancient Rajas of Garchanderi of Bundhelkhand, which is now a part of Central India. The common ancestors settled at Kahlur (Bilaspur) and remained there for a long time before the establishment of Handur state. Originally the Handur and Kahlur were ¹ one unit.

In A.D. 900 the Kahlur State or Bilaspur was founded by Raja Bir Chand. Bir Chand invaded Sirmur and annexed a portion of that state. He also took one pargana from Handu, the then ruling chief and fixed his boundary at Manaswal in the Dun (north side of Nalagarh). Raja Bir Chand the founder was followed by a number of Rajas of whom we know only the names. These were Udham Chand, Jaskaran Chand, Madanbrahm Chand, Ahichand, Kahil Chand, Silar Chand, Man Chand, Sen Chand, Sulkhan Chand and ² Khan Chand. The last of these, Khan Chand being the eleventh in descent from Raja Bir Chand.

It is said that Raja Khan Chand of Kahlur had two queens, one from Kulu and other from Baghal state. For a long time the King had no issue and he was worried.

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1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh pp 52-53.
 2. History of Punjab Hill States, p. 497

By chance both the queens became pregnant at the same time. Once the Raja had gone to Hotigarh.¹ Kanwar Ajai Chand was first born to the Rani of Kulu but the news of his birth did not reach to the King. After a few days Ajit Chand was born to the Rani of Baghal. The household attendants who were previously trained by the Rani of Baghal immediately conveyed the news of the birth of younger Ajit Chand to the Raja before he could listen the news of elder Ajai Chand's birth. In this way the younger born, but first heard was declared the legal heir apparent to the throne. Thus Ajai Chand, the elder son, lost his birth-right on the succession and was² deprived of the throne.

When Kanwar Ajai Chand alias Suchet Chand became major he came to know all circumstances under which he had been deprived of the throne. But he did not say anything to his father. He had received all sort of trainings i.e.,³ religious, political, military while as a prince. After the death of his father, Raja Khan Chand, legal heir-apparent Ajit Chand came to the throne of Kahlur state. He started misbehaving his elder brother. Ajai Chand spent some time in Kahlur and thereafter he could not tolerate the excesses of Ajit Chand.

-
1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handoor, p. 54 Balak Ram 1895.
But the writer of Kahlur history is silent about this fact.
 2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Malagarh, p. 53
 3. Ibid

So Ajai Chand left Kahlur for northern mountains and thought of founding or conquering a separate state.

As it is stated already that Handu area was under the rule of Handu who was not popular among his subjects. The inhabitants were fed up of his unjust and tyrannical rule. As soon as Ajai Chand came with his small force, the officials of Handu came with the complaints of excesses. He listened to them. As Ajai Chand being the son of a king had an ancestral desire to rule and capture more territories. He was able to please the officials of Handu. After winning their sympathies he planned to attack Handu. The officials of Handu gave all sort of help and support i.e. military and financial etc to Ajai Chand secretly, who had collected a small force. When Handu came to know about the alliance of his officials with his enemy he immediately marched towards the borders of his territory along with his force. Handu's forces were many times bigger than Ajai Chand's forces. But Ajai Chand's army was well-equipped and well-trained. Besides this, Ajai Chand himself was a younger and brave soldier of high quality. There was a tough fight

1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 54-55

between the two forces. As Handu had been demoralised¹ was killed in the battle field. Ajai Chand won the field magnificently. He got the wealth, army and other valuable materials from Handu's treasury. The forces of Ajai Chand then entered the fort of Handur and took it in their possession. The officials of Handu performed² the coronation ceremony (Rajtilk) to Ajai Chand. Thus in 1100 A.D. Ajai Chand became the founder of the³ dynasty of Rajputs rulers of Handur.

1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Hindur, p. 56.

2. Ibid., p. 57

3. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 56-57
Raja Ajai Chand became the founder of the state and his long desire to become the king and acquire power was fulfilled.

CHAPTER III

EVOLUTION OF STATE FROM 1100 A.D. ONWARD

In 1100 A.D. Ajai Chand established his rule¹ over Handur State. From this very time the Kahlur (Bilaspur) and Handur (Nalagarh) became two separate states, ruled by two different Rajas of the same dynasty. Raja Ajai Chand was well educated, brave and a man of good fortune. He established his rule with power and firmness. He was a just ruler. After the victory, he magnanimously performed the funeral rites of the fallen chief, Thakur Handu and provided for the maintenance of his children, whose descendants are still² headman of Chirauli in the pargana of Nawanagar. Another thing which he did was that he did not change the name of the state which was after its previous ruler

1. Encyclopaedia of Sikh literature, p. 656.
Kahlur was the capital of Bilaspur state and is situated on the left bank of river Satluj. It is on a height of 1469 feet from the sea level with the area of 448 Sq. miles. It is thirty miles away from Ropar. The state was established by Raja Bir Chand, a Chand¹ Rajput from Chanderi in Bundhelkhan of central India.
2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, pp 53-54.

(Thakur Handu). But he did not remain in undisturbed possession of his newly acquired kingdom. Raja Ajit Chand (younger brother of Ajai Chand) of Kahlur claimed to be suzerain over the newly conquered state of his elder brother. He invaded it several times. Although with superior forces he was able to prevent Ajai Chand from regaining his rightful kingdom of Kahlur but he could not succeed in ousting Raja Ajai Chand from Handur who by his firm and just rule succeeded in consolidating his power in the kingdom. He re-organised the state administration in his own way and was greatly interested in the welfare of his people. He made every possible effort to make his subjects happy and prosperous. The state had thick forests. He cleared the jungles and constructed many houses for the people. As the country side was partly hilly there was scarcity of drinking water. Ajai Chand dug many wells and baolis (water source) for common people of the state. He based his rule upon the customs and rituals prevailing in the state. He ruled until his death in 1171 A.D.

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1. Gazetteers of the Simla Hill States, Part A, pp2-3.
 2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur, p. 57

Struggle against Kanets

Bije Chand, the only son of Raja Ajai Chand succeeded after the death of his father in 1171 A.D. He was only four months old when his father died. The state administration was carried on by his mother who worked as a regent until the time he became major. She had to cope with the revolt of Kanets which had grown turbulent under Handu, but were kept under subjection by the vigorous rule of Raja Ajai Chand. The Kanets were also Rajputs. According to H.A. Rose, "The Kanets are the yeoman peasantry of the eastern Himalayas in the Punjab and of the hills at their base".

There is a controversy over the origin of Kanets. H.A. Rose says that the common derivation of Kanet or Kanait is from Kunit 'indifference' or 'hostility' to the Shashtras. According to Rose "The Rajputs or Chhatris

1. A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of Punjab and the North West Frontier Province Vol. II A.K. P. 456

"The Kanets had large possessions. They were occupying the whole of Kulbi, Mandi, Suket, the eastern portion of the Kangra valley, the Simla Hill States and Sirmur. They were also found in the east of the Satluj in Jhandbari area of modern Ropar district, and Kotana Valley of Ambala was also held by them. In the Simla Hills, they were directly subordinate to the Rajput kings."

who did not observe them (shashtras) strictly are said to have been called 'Kanait'. Others say that the word is really Kania-hat or 'love for daughters' because kanets did not kill their daughters at birth. There is another version that Lord Krishna who was also called 'Kan' in hilly dialect, invaded Bashahr (a neighbouring¹ state of Nalagarh) his descendants are Kanait. In the Shivalik hills, Sirmur, lower Suket, Mandi, Nalagarh, Bilaspur etc., the pure Kanets are considered at least a rank higher than those in the upper hills of Kulu, Saraj² and the other Simla states.

In the Handur state encouraged by the minor ruler the Kanets revolted. The main cause of their revolt was that the Kanets did not like the subjugation and they wanted to retain their independence. After Ajai Chand's death Kanets strengthened themselves and revolted against the widow of Ajai Chand. At first the state officials sided with the rebels, but the Rani called them before her and by an impassioned appeal to their loyalty³ induced them to aid her in suppressing the rebellion. As

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1. A Glossary of Tribes & Castes in Punjab and North West Frontier, Vol. II A.K. , p. 457
 2. Ibid., p. 457
 3. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States Vol. VIII, p. 2

Kanets were the dominant class of the state they claimed share in the state affairs and control over the minor king. But Kani was very far-sighted lady and never wanted to yield to the Kanets. She kept the administration of the state in her own hands, looked-after of the minor Raja and ruled the state wisely.¹ The Kanets were defeated several times.² But when Raja Bij Chand assumed the state administration he removed the rebellious officials of the state. Thus the power of Kanets was suppressed.

In order to gain popularity he cleared the forests of the state in large number in which were inhabited wild beasts. It helped greatly in increasing the agriculture of state as maximum cleared land was brought under cultivation and many new villages were established. Bij Chand adopted wise policies that is why his name is still cherished in the state for his liberal policies.³ After ruling thirty years Raja Bij Chand died in 1201 A.D.

After Bij Chand's death Dham Chand, a minor son of Bij Chand came to the throne. Cattle raiding was a common practice in the state. So his main object was to put a stop to cattle raiding. Except a few feeble revolts

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1. Tarikh-e-Biasat Nalagarh, pp 55-56.
 2. Cazetteers of Simla Hill States, Vol. VIII, p. 3
 3. Cazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 3

of Kanets no other significant event occurred in his times. He suppressed Kanets in the state. In this work he succeeded and his intelligence even as a youth, made him an efficient and popular ruler. He died after ruling¹ thirty five years.

Among the descendants of Bije Chand Jainmal Chand is considered the wise ruler. He succeeded his father in 1316 A.D. He was a wise ruler and was known for his judgement. He used to become arbitrator and his judgement commanded the respect of all parties in a dispute. He ruled for 22 years. After his death his son Amar Chand who came on throne in 1338 A.D. ruled very efficiently. He was an active ruler. He often moved among his subjects in disguise in order to learn their grievances. He used to collect revenue and take begar (forced labour) from cultivators as it was previously in practice in the times of his fore-fathers. He died in 1356 A.D. after ruling 24 years.

Help to Timur

After the death of Raja Amar Chand in 1356 A.D. his son Alam Chand came to the throne. He had to face a

1 He was contemporary of Prithvi Raj Chauhan, the last Hindu Ruler of the Delhi throne. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur, p. 61

serious crisis. In 1399 A.D. Timur invaded the Punjab. After his massacre at Delhi and his sack of Merrut and Hardwar he marched on his return journey along the foot of the hills. He reached in the frontiers of Handur state¹ and he pitched his camps in the open fields. Alam Chand the then ruler of Handur got repaired his forts and filled them with provisions. He made every preparation for the defence of the state. The Raja then visited the Timur in person, and offered him a supply of provisions of² which his army stood in great need. The invader accepted all help happily. His forces pursued their march without inflicting any injury upon the state. This was a great success of the policy of ruler of Handur. In this way with his far-sightedness he saved the state from any sort of destruction. After seven years of this event Alam Chand died in 1406 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Udham Chand who had a peaceful reign. He held the state aloof from the dissensions, which then prevailed among the Hill chiefs. Raja Udham Chand devoted his energies to the

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1. Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. VIII, Part A, pp-3-4
 2. ~~Tarikh-e-Riasat Handur~~ p. 73. According to Balak Ram in 1455 B.K. Timur crossed the Attok river and in 1456 B.K. on the return of his journey Raja Alam Chand went to meet Timur in person and helped him to some extent.

amelioration of the lot of his subjects in every sphere.¹ He had two sons. Elder son Bikram Chand was coronated and the younger Katak Chand received Chandori in pargana Palasi for his maintenance. His descendants still live there and bear the title of Miana.

Founding of Nalagarh Town

The Nalagarh town was founded by Raja Bikram Chand son of Udham Chand who succeeded his father in 1421 A.D. He founded this town and granted the jagirs to his sons in this area. It was he who made Nalagarh, the capital of his kingdom. Previously Raja Ajai Chand (founder of the state) made Handur, in pargana Gullarwala, his capital. Raja Bikram Chand shifted his residence from Mainpurie in the former pargana of Baili, a small village to Nalagarh proper. The Nalagarh became so important later on that entire state of Handur began to be named² after this place.

Relations with Sayyed Brothers

Raja Kidar Chand was the eldest son of Raja Bikram Chand. He succeeded to the throne in 1435 A.D. There is a controversy over the relations of Kidar Chand with

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 4

2. Ibid., p. 4

Sayyed brothers. According to a version by Lala Bihari Lal author of Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, Raja Kidar Chand was contemporary of Mughal Emperor Hammayun. He further writes that Emperor Hammayun granted two farmans to Raja Kidar Chand.¹ But according to the second version by Lala Balak Ram Shad author of Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur, Kidar Chand was a close associate of Sayyed family,² then ruling in Delhi.

The first version of Lala Bihari Lal does not seem to be correct because it was not Kidar Chand but his grandson Narain Chand who ruled from 1476 to 1531 A.D. (1533 to 1578 B.K.)¹ was the contemporary of the Mughal Emperor Babur, who was the founder of Mughal empire in India. Whereas Kidar Chand died in 1448 A.D. (1504 B.K.) Thus it is impossible to believe that Kidar Chand could be contemporary of Hammayun. It seems to be believable that farmans must be issued by the Sayyed brothers of Delhi to Raja Kidar Chand as he was a one of their close associates.

1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 60

2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Hindoor, pp-80-81

Loss of Satgarha Forts

On the border areas of Bilaspur and Nalagarh there were seven forts, which were called Satgarha forts. These were originally in the possession of Nalagarh state. Raja Narain Chand who came to throne after the death of his father in 1477 A.D. was the grandson of Kidar Chand and son of Raja Jai Chand. He was minor at that time and the administration of state was held by his mother. During her regime Raja of Nurpur (District Hoshiarpur) halted near the capital of state, on his way to Hardwar. He was so pleased with the arrangement made for his entertainment that he proposed an matrimonial alliance between young Raja Narain Chand and his daughter. His offer was accepted by Rani but wazir opposed the proposal on the ground that the status of Raja of Nurpur was not sufficiently high. After the refusal the Raja of Nurpur married his daughter to the Raja of Kahlur (Bilaspur) and he incited his son-in-law to attack Nalagarh. The Kahlur prince successfully did the same. Nalagarh was compelled to purchase peace by surrendering the forts of

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 4

Satgarha which are still held by Bilaspur.¹ It was a great loss for the state.

Rule of Raja Ram Chander

Soon after the loss of Satgarha Raja Ram Chander who succeeded his father in 1522 A.D. founded the new town namely Ram-Shahr² at the distance of ten miles from Nalagarh and along with this town he also built a fort named Ram Garh³. In order to popularize this place he made this town his summer capital. More than three hundred shops were opened and this way this town became an important commercial town. Raja Ram Chander was a very popular ruler and used to defend the state with zeal. When the Mughal Emperor Hummayun had been defeated by Sher Shah Suri and was fleeing towards north-western side in 1540 A.D. On his way to Sind, he passed through Sirhind.⁴ At that time Nalagarh state was in danger of being destroyed by the fleeing Mughal armies because

1. Ibid. In 1761 A. D when Ram Saran Singh came to the throne he took back all the forts. However after the Gurkha invasion of 1803 these forts were again given back to Bilaspur in lieu of Rs. one lakh. Now these forts are in Bilaspur. Some of them are Ratanpur, Bahadurgarh, Sangarha, Fathepur and Taragarh.
2. Taraikh-e-Hiasat Nalagarh, p.65 This town is ten miles away from Nalagarh. In Gurkha invasion this town was brutally plundered by the Gurkhas. After the battle Ram Saran Singh re-established this town.
3. Rangarh was the most important fort of Nalagarh and was situated at the height of 31,67 feet from the sea level.
4. A Short History of Muslim Rule in India, p.312

Mughal forces were being pursued by the Pathan forces of Sher Shah Suri. But Ram Chander showed great vigilance and guarded his state most valiantly. Thus the Mughal forces did not enter the Nalagarh state.

It is said that Ram Chander used to exact half the gross produce of the land as revenue. It was apparently realized with hardship with regard to the circumstances. The revenue officers of the state used to estimate the produce and the state used to take half of the total produce as land revenue. This system could not satisfy the people. The cultivators were very much disgusted. The result was that many of the poor cultivators had to leave their land due to hardships.

Achievements of Raja Sansar Chand and Dharm Chand

The successor of Raja Ram Chander was a great builder, who succeeded in 1568 A.D. He built a handsome Dewankhana at Nalagarh which had no match in Simla Hill States at that time. It is said that more than three hundred years have passed but the Dewankhana is intact as before. Durbars and British officials meeting were held in this Dewankhana. He also repaired and rebuilt

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1. Taraikh-e-Riazat Nalagarh, pp 63-64.
 2. Ibid., pp 65-66. The Dewankhana of Nalagarh is still present in good condition. The pattern of this Dewankhana is like the Dewankhana situated in the Hazoori Garden of Lahore.

the Kala Kund reservoir at Kundlu.¹ Later on Raja Ram Saran Singh built there a big reservoir at the cost of Rs. 1,60,000. The bandh remained upto 1883 A.D. (1940 B.K. Sambat) and then broke down. Now a stream is flowing there.

Raja Sansar Chand who died in 1618 A.D. was succeeded by Dharm Chand² his eldest son. His major achievement was with regard to the revenue collection. He disliked and discontinued the land revenue method adopted by his grandfather, Raja Ram Chander. He realised that 1/2 of the total produce as land revenue was too high. He found that people disliked it. In order to win their sympathies, he reduced the rate of land revenue to 1/6³ of the total production. Dharm Chand was very popular⁴ ruler who ruled about 83 years.

Death of Raja Himmat Chand

In 1701 A.D. Raja Himmat Chand came to the throne.

1. Ibid, It is believed that at the time of Pandova exile they came towards this area and built a Kund (talab) which was named as Kalakund. His Imperial Majesty King George V and the Princes of India by K.R. Khosla, Lahore 1937, pp. 183-94.
2. Raja Dharm Chand had seven brothers namely, Lal Chand, Nahar Chand, Badan Chand, Prithi Chand, Nanak Chand, Hari Chand and Khushal Chand.
Dharm Chand was called Tara Chand by Khazan Singh and H.A. Rose. Hutchison in History of Punjab Hill States has mentioned that fort of Taragarh (one of Satgarha forts) in Handur was built after his name.
3. Later on this method was changed into cash payment.
4. Gazetteers of the Simla Hill States, p. 4

Like his name he was very courageous but could not rule for long. In 1705 A.D. the Pathans assembled on Ropar side with the intention of war.¹ Later on they attacked the Nalagarh state three times. Raja Himmat Chand fought very bravely. In the last attack he fell fighting gallantly against the invaders in the battle-field. In this battle the forces of Raja Himmat Chand made a desperate resistance and were defeated with heavy losses.

Bhup Chand succeeded his father in 1705 A.D. Adina Beg Khan sought the help of Punjab Hill States,² when one Jamaluddin Pathan attacked Jullundur Doab. Bhup Chand fought on the side of Adina Beg and he killed Jamaludin. Bhup Chand refused to accept anything from the loot. Only one Guraj of Jamaludin he took and this³ is still lying in the state as a mark of memory. On return from war Bhup Chand made himself busy in the establishment of state. He built a fort in Awankot, which is now in Ropar district. He prepared his residence there. Two villages named Lakhanpura and Chhara were

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1. According to Balak Ram Shad these Pathans were of Inderjal Tribe of Pathans - Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur p. 23
 2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur pp 88-89
 3. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh pp 70-71

founded by Bhup Chand. He died after ruling 56 years in 1761 A.D.

Chaos and Bloodshed

The state of Nalagarh lapsed into chaos and bloodshed in the reign of Raja Man Chand who had succeeded his father in 1761 A.D. He did not take much interest in the administration. Being a great scholar of Sanskrit, he used to spend most of his time in worshipping and studying. During his period, his uncle, Padam Chand (Brother of Bhup Chand) got the opportunity to raise the standard of revolt against his nephew. The state was now divided by factions, the Mathiana Kanets siding with Man Chand and the Thamu Kanets with Padam Chand.¹ Padam Chand assassinated his nephew, Man Chand, his wife and son and declared himself as the Raja of the state. But soon after, he was killed along with his wife and two sons by the Mattiana Kanets, the supporters of Raja Man Chand.² The state was plunged in internecine warfare. Many Mians and Rajput sardars were killed. There was chaos all over the state. This game of blood-shed wiped off all the real claimants to the throne. Now only a distant

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 5

2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 72

claimant Gaje Chand, son of Mian Dhan Chand could save his life, as he had gone for an hunting expedition. When he heard the tragic news, he left Handur state and went to Bhai Kharak Singh of Haripur in Mahlog (former neighbouring state of Nalagarh) to take shelter there.

After these bloody incidents the state was in a very unbalanced condition. Might was right prevailing in the state. Bhai Kharak Singh of Haripur effected a reconciliation between the various factions and helped Gaje Chand a distant claimant to establish himself as ruler there.¹ Since Gaje Chand lived with Bhai Kharak Singh he was converted from Gaje Chand to Gaje Singh.² From that very times the names of Handur rulers were written with Singhs.

A Revolt to oust Gaje Singh

For a time being there was calmness in the state. But after sometime opposition aroused again as Telu, Buta, Thalo Kanets and Agro Wazir united together with the chief of Kahlur state. They started revolts against Raja Gaje Singh. With the consent of rebels the neighbouring ruler of Kahlur attacked Nalagarh. Now the Nalagarh

1. Gazetteers of the Simla Hill States, p. 5

2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, Chapter V, pp74-75

state was surrounded by enemies. Some territories of Nalagarh like Chambargarh, Malaon, Rangarh and Baddian were snatched by Kahlur as the result of this attack. On the other side one leading Mastu Kanet instigated against the Raja and took the 'Pahul' (Amrit) from the Sodhis of Anandpur Sahib¹ and helped them to take the possession of the Gullarwala pargana. Only Nalagarh and Palasi fort remained with Gaje Singh.

Extension of Territories

During the life time of Gaje Singh, his son Ram Saran Singh made his residence at Palasi fort. The prince used to manage the state affairs as his father Gaje Singh did not interfere with his work.² Raja Gaje Singh died in 1788 A.D. Ram Saran Singh succeeded his father in 1788 A.D. and ruled for sixty years. When he came to the throne only Nalagarh, Palasi and Dharnpur parganas were in his possession. He made the maximum extension of the state. In the early part of his reign he had so extended his dominions that his authority was paramount from

1. Anandpur Sahib previously called Makhowal was founded by the Ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur. Previously it was in Kahlur state and then in modern Hoshiarpur district. But now it comes in modern Ropar district.
2. Gazetteers of Jindia Hill States, p. 5.

Palasi to Mattiana, and in eastwards as far as Ajmirgarh on the Jumna. Although he did not conquer Sirmur (Nahan), but the important fort of Sapthu was under his officiating supervision.¹ Not only this but with a mild battle with Agro Wazir, Ram Saran Singh arrested him and took back Baddi and its adjoining territories during the life time of his father. In the former days most of state was waste. The villages were confined to valleys. Many tracts were away from main routes. The Gullarwala pargana was a desert. The only signs of habitation were thatched huts and the people concealed their valuables and property in caves. Raja Ram Saran Singh colonised the tract afresh with settlers from the Ambala and Hoshiarpur districts during the reign of his father Gaje Singh.

In this way Raja Ram Saran Singh became so important that Raja Sansar Chand Katoch of Kangra gave him his daughter in matrimonial alliance.²

His conquests started in 1791 A.D. He collected approximate 20,000 armed persons from various rulers

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, Section- C p. 8

2. Ibid., p. 5

including Raja Sansar Chand Katoh of Kangra, Raja Jagat Parkash of Nahan, Raja of Kotlehr, Raja of Chamba, Raja of Jagwal (Hoshiarpur district), Mian Gokal Chand Wazir and Sardar Hari Singh Dhallawala. Since the raja of Kahlur had taken possession of the territories of Nalagarh state he was to fight against him. The battle was fought in the Gullarwala fort. On the other side the Raja of Kahlur Maha Chand called for the help of neighbouring states especially the Sardars¹ and Sodhis of Anandpur Sahib. The number of his armies was nearly 35,000. But Ram Saran Singh won the battle and this victory brought back almost all the lost territories of Nalagarh state. All the forts belonged to Nalagarh like Sangra, Katangarh, Fatehgarh and Bahadurgarh were taken back by Ram Saran² Singh.

After the battle of Gullarwala the relations between Kahlur and Nalagarh could not remain cordial. But the real cause for the further estrangement was that Raja Ram Saran Singh had not only himself occupied a large portions of Kahlur State but some other territories of Kahlur were occupied by Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra.

1. History of Punjab Hill States, p. 510.
Sardar Gurdit Singh and Desa Singh were also residing at Anandpur were called by Raja Maha Chand of Kahlur for help.
2. Ibid. p. 506.
The Raja of Handur (Nalagarh) Ram Saran Singh invaded the territories of Kahlur and burnt Bilaspur and captured the forts of Fatehgarh, Bahadurgarh and Ratanpur.

Raja Maha Chand of Kahlur could not tolerate all this loss. In order to recover the losses Maha Chand invited the Gurkhas for help. He called the Gurkhas to attack Nalagarh and to crush the rising power of the state.

The Gurkhas, having suffered defeat at the hands of the Chinese, had begun to move westwards along the mountain ranges. In 1803 at the invitation of Raja of Kahlur the Gurkhas came from Nepal through hills and broke the rising power of Raja Ram Saran and all the hill chiefs. After the long seige of three years, Gurkhas captured the famous fort of Ramgarh, which had been constructed by the former ruler of Nalagarh. As a result of this battle, Raja Ram Saran Singh had to flee to Basoli in Hoshiarpur. He stayed there for three or four months and then returned to Palasi where he lived for ten years from 1803 to 1813 A.D. After the Gurkha invasion only Palasi fort, Baddi and Gullarwala were in possession of Raja Ram Saran Singh.

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 5

CHAPTER IV

Relations with the Sikhs (1618-1813 A.D.)

Relations with Guru Hargobind

There is no account available of the relations of Sikh Guru with Malagarh state before 1618 A.D. Guru Hargobind, the Sixth Guru came to Handur in 1618 A.D. to defeat its chief Sangar Chand.¹ Khazan Singh and H.A. Rose have given that Raja Tara Chand, also known by the name of Dharm Chand, of Handur had continued for a long time in open rebellion against Emperor Jahangir. All efforts to subdue him had failed. That is why Mughal Emperor Jahangir, deputed Guru Hargobind to subdue Raja Tara Chand.² Khazan Singh further writes that Raja Tara Chand was vanquished by Guru Hargobind and brought before Emperor Jahangir in Sambat 1675 (1618 A.D.)³ But this version of Khazan Singh and Rose does not appear to be correct because Dharm Chand alias Tara Chand came to the

1. Guru Gobind Singh(A biographical study) J.S. Grewal and S.S. Bal, (Chandigarh) 1967 p. 177.
2. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion Part I Khazan Singh (Lahore) 1914, pp 129-130. Khazan Singh has given Tara Chand instead of Dharm Chand. Tara Chand was his earlier name. Later on he was known by the name of Dharm Chand.
3. History and Philosophy of the Sikh Religion Part I, p. 130.

throne in 1618 A.D. Both the authors have mentioned that for a long time he was in open rebellion against the Emperor Jahangir but, it is not correct because he assumed power in 1618 A.D. It must be Raja Sansar Chand, the father of Dharm Chand, who reigned for a long time (1568 to 1618 A.D.) and would have been in open rebellion against Mughal Emperor. In that case it would have been he who had been subdued by the Sixth Guru at the instance of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. But it is difficult to be absolutely certain of why Guru Hargobind came to Handur in 1618 A.D. to defeat its chief Sansar Chand¹ in a military engagement.

The relations of Raja Dharm Chand and Guru Hargobind appear to be very cordial, as later on we find that the Guru visited the Handur state in person. Dharm Chand who was one of the eight sons of the ruler of Handur seems to have sought the help of Guru Hargobind against his own father who had in all probability nominated some other son as his successor. It is likely that Dharm Chand might have first met the Guru in the fort of Cavalior, where they were imprisoned by the Emperor

1. Guru Gobind Singh, J.S. Grewal and S.S. Bal, p. 177

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Jahangir, a decade earlier. And they might have become friendly enough to share each other's hopes and aspirations. The second point in support of this view is that Sansar Chand's defeat was followed by his death. After his defeat at the hands of Guru Hargobind, there began a regular contest for the throne in which Dharm Chand was helped by the Guru against the rival claimants, as the Guru was in friendly terms with Dharm Chand. Guru Hargobind returned to his headquarters at Amritsar in 1618.² It was the time when Dharm Chand ascended the throne of Handur in 1618 A.D.

Guru Hargobind's friendly terms with Dharm Chand are proved by subsequent events. In 1627 A.D. Guru Hargobind was invited by Dharm Chand to visit his territory. But Guru sent his eldest son, Baba Gurditta to Dun (northern portion of Handur) to establish a Sikh centre there. Guru's son, Baba Gurditta was very well-received in Handur by Raja Dharm Chand and he was helped to establish a centre at the present site of Kiratpur.³

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1. Guru Gobind Singh, J.S. Grewal & S.S. Bal, p. 177
 2. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 131
 3. Encyclopaedia of Sikh literature, p. 248
 Kiratpur- It is a very important Sikh Historical town, on the banks of river Satluj in the foot hills of Shiwalik. Previously it was in Hoshiarpur district but now it is in modern Ropar district.

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useful to the Guru in several ways.

Raja Dharm Chand found the Sikh Guru and his armed contingents very useful in his fight with the neighbouring chiefs. He had some boundary dispute with the neighbouring Nawab of Ropar. A fight was ensued with the Nawab and with the help of Guru Hargobind, the Nawab was completely defeated in 1642 A.D.

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Though the successors of Guru Hargobind, particularly Guru Har Rai, Guru Har Krishan and Guru Tegh Bahadur, gave up some of the martial practices of Guru Hargobind but their Sikhs could nevertheless be useful as soldiers. In 1656 A.D. Dharm Chand employed the Sikhs in war against the chief of Kahlur. It was natural for the neighbouring chiefs to look for an opportunity to finish the Sikh Guru's close relationship with the chief of Handur.

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Newly established town, Kiratpur, was made one of the headquarters by Guru Hargobind. For nearly a decade the

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1. Guru Gobind Singh, p. 177
 2. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 139
 3. Rose has also referred Khazan Singh on p. 688.
Guru Gobind Singh p. 179, 180
 4. The other headquarter of Guru Hargobind was Amritsar

existence of the Guru's headquarters in the vicinity of two principalities of Handur and Kahlur did not create any complication for various reasons. Firstly Raja Bhim Chand, who had succeeded to Kahlur throne after the death of Deep Chand in 1667 A.D. was a minor and could not assert himself in any way. Secondly there was a general stir in the hills against the Mughals in the first half of 1670's which overshadowed the mutual differences of the chiefs of Kahlur and Handur. Both of them remained indulgent towards the Sikhs particularly after the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1675 A.D. at Delhi.¹

Relations with Guru Tegh Bahadur

Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru came to Kiratpur in 1665 A.D. and made it his headquarter. As the Guru was greatly troubled by his relations at Kiratpur, he wanted to live in solitude and peace. In order to avoid all quarrels, he purchased some land and founded the town of Makhawal on sambat 1722 (July 1665² A.D.) for his residence.³ According to another version, on hearing

1. Guru Gobind Singh, pp 178-179

2. Now in modern Ropar district and previously when it was founded was called Makhawal. It is in the foot hills of Shiwalik range.

3. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 151

that Guru Tegh Bahadur was being troubled by the supporters of Dhir Mal¹ at Kiratpur, the ruler of Kahlur got the opportunity to come closer to ninth Guru. Raja Deep Chand who was reigning Kahlur at that time invited the Guru to settle down at Makhowal, which was within his territories. Moreover, it was not far from Kiratpur (Guru's headquarter) itself. The ruler of Kahlur did all this out of jealousy because the ruler of Handur state was in cordial relations with the sixth Guru. Now Guru Tegh Bahadur had two headquarters one at Makhowal in Kahlur² and other at Kiratpur in Handur state.

Relations with Guru Gobind Singh

As similar to Guru Tegh Bahadur, we don't find any personal visit of Guru Gobind Singh³ in the state proper, except he visited Rawalsar in Mandi by passing through Kundlu, a pargana of Nalagarh state. The cordial relations between the rulers of Handur and sixth Guru could

1. Dhir Mal was the grandson of Guru Hargobind and eldest son of Baba Gurditta. In this way he was elder brother of Guru Har Rai the seventh Guru and nephew of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru. He did a lot to kill Guru Tegh Bahadur because he claimed his right on Guru gaddi after Guru Har Rai.
2. Guru Gobind Singh, p 179-180
3. There was one Rawalsar also in the Nalagarh state, which was one mile away from Ramshahr and Ramgarh fort.

not last longer due to the long standing enmities between the Rajas of Kahlur and Handur. Hari Chand, one of Raja Sansar Chand's sons and brother of Raja Dharm Chand fought along with the rulers of Kahlur against Guru Gobind Singh in the famous battle of Bhangani¹ (1687 A.D.) In Dr. Ganda Singh's view, Hari Chand must be son or nephew of Raja Dharm Chand, not the brother exactly. In support of his point he argues that Raja Dharm Chand himself came to throne in early age and at the time of Bhangani battle, his brother must be around about seventy or seventy five because he himself was² reigning for seventy years.

We cannot agree with this version because from any other source we don't find any account which may indicate that Raja Dharm Chand and Hari Chand were not brothers. All the available accounts of Malagarh depict him as his brother. Dharm Chand was the eldest son of Raja Sansar Chand's eight sons. It might be possible that Hari Chand would be the youngest. Actually he was not the Raja but a mere prince and was commonly called Raja Hari Chand.

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1. Encyclopaedia of Sikh Literature, p. 200- Hari Chand was the brother of Handur chief and was commonly called Raja.
 2. Kavi Sampat Raehit Sri Guru Sobha, Dr. Ganda Singh Patiala 1967, p. 153-54.
According to it at the time of Bhangani battle Raja Dharm Chand was on Handur throne (1618 to 1701 A.D.) After him came Himmat Chand (1701 to 1704) and then Raja Bhup Chand (1704-1755) respectively.

It is not clear anywhere why Hari Chand of Handur sided with Raja Dhim Chand of Kahlur, because for a very long time both the states were in strong enmity against each other. It is likely that Hari Chand, who was also a claimant of Handur throne joined the Kahlur chief after his unsuccessful attempt to get the throne. It is also possible that out of jealousy against his brother, Dharm Chand, who was friendly with the Guru, Hari Chand joined hand with the Kahlur ruler against the Guru.

Guru Gobind Singh the tenth Sikh Guru and only son of Guru Tegh Bahadur, assumed the power in 1675 A.D. In the words of Sunder Singh, "After the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur at Delhi (In November 1675) Guru Gobind Singh was installed on the gaddi of Guruship at Anandpur. In a short time many followers gathered round him and his power and sources steadily increased". As soon as Guru assumed the power he issued an edict that presents of arms and horses would please him. Thus numerous presents of arms and horses began to come in. Many brave and courageous combatants who were opposed by Emperor Aurangzeb² in any way, began to flock around Guru Gobind Singh.

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1. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh, Sunder Singh
M.A. Khalsa College, Amritsar 1935, p. 1
 2. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, Part I
p. 163.

Within a few years after the Guru's assumption to the Gurgaddi, Kirpal Chand (maternal uncle and guardian of Guru Gobind Singh) adopted the martial ways and manners of Guru Hargobind, as Guru Gobind Singh was in his early age. With such measures, Makhowal began to give the appearance of an armed camp. Guru's movements between Makhowal and Kiratpur which hitherto had appeared to be an ordinary thing, were looked upon with suspicion by Bhim Chand of Kahlur who was now coming to manhood. Khushwant Rai writes (in Tawarikh-e-Sikhan on page 28) "When he (Guru Gobind Singh) had lived for some time at Anandpur and Kiratpur in this state, the Rajas of Kahlur and Handur began to fear that if he was allowed to continue in that way he might become too powerful for them. After sometime, they even feared that he might try to take possession of the hill country under their sway. For this reason, for some time they obstructed the people carrying offerings such as horses, elephants, etc. to the Guru. This is what provided the Guru with a cause for hostility with the Rajas". Now anti-Mughal sentiments no longer bound the hill chiefs. Their mutual rivalries and differences reappeared and Bhim Chand did not like the association of Sikhs with the rival principality of Dharm Chand of Handur.² The chief of Kahlur was apprehensive

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1. The battles of Guru Gobind Singh, p. 1,2.
 2. Guru Gobind Singh, p. 178

of the close ties between the chief of Handur and armed Sikhs of the young Guru, under the centre at Kiratpur, because Guru's presence transformed the place into an armed¹ camp.

Circumstances leading to battle of Bhagani

In 1680 A.D. Raja Rattan Rai of Assam came on pilgrimage to Anandpur and presented in addition to the tithe (one tenth of the income), other valuable and precious² offerings containing a well tamed white beautiful elephant called 'Parsadi'. Basically all the hill chiefs were not happy with the Guru's rising power. Observing the prosperity and progress of the Guru, the hill Rajas were wonder-struck, and Bhim Chand of Kahlur in whose territory the Guru was residing became jealous and sought some excuse to get certain valuable articles from the Guru. He therefore proposed to borrow (never to return) among other items including 'Parsadi' elephant. The Guru suspecting the design of the Raja politely refused the³ request. He was greatly offended at the refusal.

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1. Guru Gobind Singh, p. 179
 2. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh, pp2-3 and History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 164
The other valuable presents were (1) five horses with gold trappings (2) a throne (Chauki) which was so contrived that puppets appeared from it on pressing a button and played chaupar (3) a weapon which could be used as a sword, a revolver, a lance, a dagger or a club (4) a beautiful cup and the (5) white elephant. In addition to these a Kabuli tent costing about two lacs was brought by a Sikh from Kabul.
 3. Bhai Sukha Singh in his "Gur Bilas" on p. 18 says that the Raja who had presented the elephant had requested the Guru to reserve it for his personal use. This is not strange since a disciple may often desire so.

He wrote an insolent letter to the Guru in which he threatened the expulsion from his territory. This was accepted by the Guru as an ultimatum of war. Khazan Singh is of the view that at the Guru's refusal on offerings in 1682 A.D. he was attacked by Bhim Chand. But the Raja¹ was routed leaving many dead in the battle field. Bhim Chand took this defeat as a great challenge. He united and persuaded other hill chiefs against a dangerous neighbour (Guru). Bhim Chand found an active ally in the chief of Handur who was equally apprehensive of the growing strength of Guru Gobind Singh, close to the borders² of Handur. But Sunder Singh is indifferent on this point and he says, "Bhim Chand, however, could not fight at that time, as preparations were being made for his son's marriage"³. The second version does not seem to be correct because marriage of Bhim Chand's son was celebrated in 1687 A.D. and it was 1682 A.D. It is likely that Bhim Chand must have attacked in the due course of these given years.

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1. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, Vol.I, p.168
 2. Guru Gobind Singh, p. 130, 131. It is significant that Saina Pat specifically mentions the Chief of Handur in this connection.
 3. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh, p. 4

In the meantime, the Guru on being invited by the Raja of Nahan, Medni Parkash visited his territory in 1684 A.D. At the humble request of Nahan chief, the Guru founded the town of Paunta and during his stay at Nahan, the Guru at the suggestion of the Raja built a fort on the banks of Jamuna which was also called Paunta¹. Raja Medni Parkash of Nahan and Raja Fateh Shah of Garhwal were not on good terms. As Fateh Shah of Garhwal was a good friend of Guru, he brought reconciliation between the two rival chiefs. Actually this was the purpose for which the Guru was invited to Nahan.

On the marriage of Fateh Shah's daughter the Guru sent valuable presents which he had earlier declined to lend to Raja Bhim Chand. Bhim Chand returned the presents made by the Guru to Raja Fateh Shah whose daughter was marrying a Bilaspur prince. The party which was sent by the Guru to the marriage was attacked by the joint forces of the hill chiefs and this provocation² led to battle which was fought at Bhangani.

1. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh, p. 5
 2. The Sirpur Gazetteer, p. 15

2. Bhangani was eight miles from Paonta town.

The defeat sustained by Raja Bhim Chand in 1682 A.D. ever after rankled in his bosom and he courted the aid of the other hill chiefs such as Golar, Katoch, Jaswal, Kathgarh and Handur to make a combined effort to defeat¹ and expel the Guru from their country. Therefore, with large army they all attacked Raonta where the Guru was then. A heavy battle was fought in April 1687 A.D. Guru Gobind Singh has given a very vivid account of the battle in his "Bachittar Natak" and describes the skills and² braveries of the warriors on that occasion. Hari Chand Handuria has been particularly mentioned to have fought very heroically on the enemy's side.

1. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh -

In Introduction on pages X, XI Sunder Singh says that in the case of the tenth Guru most of his battles were fought with the hill Rajas, who were no more than big zamindars. The control of the Mughal Emperor was not so effective in these hills as in the plains of the Punjab, and therefore, they were inclined for sometime to leave them without interference in their internecine warfare. That is another reason why the Sikh writers of the period have ignored to take notice of these campaigns and even of the doings of Guru Gobind Singh whom they considered to be a mere zamindar. It is only when the hill states appealed to Emperor Aurangzeb for assistance and he sent his officers to suppress the movement that we find a brief mention made of the Guru in contemporary writings.

2. 1) History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 168
 ii) The Sikh Religion its Gurus sacred Writings and its authors, Arthur Macauliffe in six vols. Vol. V Oxford, London, 1909, p. 35. He has also given a detailed account of battles.

Role of Hari Chand of Handur in Bhangani Battle

Hari Chand commonly called Raja Hari Chand played a very important role in the battle of Bhangani. Guru Gobind Singh himself praised his gallantry in 'Bachittar Natak' in these words, "The brave Hari Chand then took the field. He planted his feet firmly in the field and discharged arrows which killed whomsoever they touched".

ਯਸ ਰਾਜ ਸਜ ਲਖਨੰ ॥

ਤਸਾ ਏਨ ਖੀਰੀ ਹਰੀ ਚੰਦ ਕੋਪਯੋ ॥

ਭਲੀ ਭਰੀ ਸੇ ਖੇਤ ਸੇ ਪਾਣ ਕੋਪਯੋ ॥

ਮਰਾ ਕੋਧ ਰੇ ਜੀਹ ਕੀਖੇ ਪਹਾਰੈ ॥

(1)

ਲਗੈ ਜਿਨ ਰੇ ਤਾਹਿ ਪਾਰੈ ਪਧਾਰੈ ॥ 12 ॥

And further "Hari Chand was angry. He shot volleys of arrows and killed tens of my men". He was wounded by a spear from Jit Mal and fell into a swoon."

ਗਾਢਲ ਚੰਦ ॥

ਹਰੀ ਚੰਦ ਕੋਧੰ ॥ ਰਨੇ ਸੂਚ ਜੁੱਧੰ

ਭਲੇ ਬੁਧ ਖਾਰੇ ॥ ਬਡੇ ਲਿ ਭਾਰੇ ॥ 13 ॥

ਰਸੀ ਜੁੱਦ ਰਾਰੇ ॥ ਮਹਾ ਨੈਚ ਮਾਰੇ ॥

ਰਨੇ ਸ਼ਾਸਤ੍ਰ ਧਾਰੀ ॥ ਨਿਟੇ ਭੂਪ ਤਾਰੀ ॥ 14 ॥

ਤਖੇ ਜੀਤ ਮੈਲੰ ॥ ਹਰੀ ਚੰਦ ਭੋਲੰ ॥

(3)

ਚਿਟੈ ਲੋਚ ਮਾਰਿਯੋ ॥ ਸੁਖੈ ਉਤਾਰਿਯੋ ॥ 15 ॥

1. Original Bachittar Natak, Guru Gobind Singh Chhand No. 12.
2. Jit Mal was Guru Gobind Singh's cousin- son of Bibi Biro who was the daughter of Guru Hargobind.
3. Bachittar Natak, Chhand 13,14, 15.

Guru Gobind Singh has further detailed in the Bachittar Natak in the following words: "When Hari Chand regained consciousness and taking his bow shot many arrows whosoever was struck by these arrows could not survive and leaving this earthly body went to paradise. He shot two arrows at a time and slew mighty warriors and horses. Whomsoever the arrow struck lost his consciousness".

ਭੁਜੰਗ ਜੀ ਦੋ

ਫੂਟੀ ਮੁਥਾਨਾ ਹਰੀ ਦੰਦੀ ਖਿਡਾਰੀ ॥ ਕਰੇ ਬਾਣ ਰਾਮਾਣ ਤੇ ਐਚ ਮਾਰੇ ॥
 ਠਗੇ ਅੰਗ ਜਥੇ ਰਹੇ ਨਾ ਖਿਡਾਰੀ ॥ ਤਨੇ ਤਿਆਗੇ ਦੇਵ ਨੇਰੇ ਪਧਾਰੀ ॥²⁶
 ਦੁਖੀ ਬਾਣ ਪੈਰੇ ਇਕੱਥਾ ਮਾਰੇ ॥ ਬਲੀ ਬੀਰ ਬਾਜੀ ਨਾ ਤਾਜੀ ਬਿਦਾਰੇ ॥
 ਜਿਸੇ ਬਾਣ ਲਾਗੇ ਰਹੇ ਨਾ ਖਿਡਾਰੀ ॥ ਨੇ ਬੋਧਾਰੇ ਲਾਹ ਪਾਰੇ ਸਿਧਾਰੇ ॥²⁷⁽¹⁾

He was very brave and an accomplished archer, who resisted for very long and was killed by Guru Gobind in the end. It was he whose fall proved fatal to hill rajas because after Hari Chand's death the hill chiefs could not dare to stand any more in front of the Guru's forces. In the Bhangani battle Hari Chand was considered the bravest warrior of the hill chiefs. According to Macauliffe he appeared on the scene with the heroic resolution to secure victory for his side even after being wounded seriously. He addressed his troops: "Hill men once

1. Bachittar Natak, Chhand 26-27

so brave, why die like cowards? I have come to your assistance. Take courage." Saying this Raja Hari Chand¹ shot many brave men with his arrows. Guru Gobind Singh has given this in Bachittar Natak in the following words:

ਹੁਯੋਗ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ ਫੈਦ :

ਭਜਿਯੋ ਸਾਹਪਰਾਥ ਭਜੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾਯੀ ॥

ਚਲਿਯੋ ਬੀਰੀਯਾ ਭੀਰੀਯਾ ਨਾ ਚਲਾਯੀ ॥

ਜਸੀ ਭੈਰਵਾਨ ਮਧੁਰ ਸੁ ਸਾਰੀ ॥

ਭਜੇ ਸੀਗ ਨੈ ਰੈ ਸੁ ਸਾਰੀ ਸਿਖਾਰੀ ॥ 20 ॥

ਚੌਕੁ ਚੌਪਿਯੋ ਚੈਦ ਗਜੀ ਚੌਦੈ ॥

ਹਰੀ ਹਰੀ ਚੈਦ ਗਹ ਰਾ ਮੈ ॥

ਗਰਿਯੋ ਸੁਖਾਯੀ ਬਹਮੀ ਮਹਾ ਰੋਗ ਹੁੰਦੈ ॥ (2)

ਗਿਰੀਯੋ ਫੁਰ ਫੁਰ ਹੋਇ ਇਯੋ ਸੁਰ ਭੀਯੈ ॥ 21 ॥

Arthur Macauliffe in Sikh Religion Vol. V writes

that Guru on seeing this confronted him and afterwards, thus described the combat that ensued: "Hari Chand in his rage drew forth his arrows. He struck my steed with one and then discharged another at me, but God preserve me and it only grazed my ear in its flight. His third arrows penetrated the buckle of my waist belt and reached my body but wounded me not. It is only God who protected me, knowing me his servant."

ਹਰੀ ਚੈਦ ਰੋਪੇ ਕਮਾਣੇ ਸਿਖਾਰੀ ॥ ਪ੍ਰਥਮ ਬਜੀ ਰਾਣ ਬਾਣ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰੀ ॥

ਦੁਜੀਯਾ ਬਾਣ ਰੈ ਭੀਰ ਮੈ ਚਲਾਯੋ ॥ ਭਖਿਓ ਦਈਵ ਮੈ ਕਾਨ ਚੌਦੈ ਸਿਖਾਰੀ ॥

ਤ੍ਰਿਤੀਯਾ ਬਾਣ ਮਾਰਿਯੋ ਸੁ ਪੇਟੀ ਮੰਝਾਰੀ ॥ ਬਿਧਿਯੋ ਚਿਲਕੀਯੋ ਦੁਖਾਨ ਪਾਰੀ ਬਧਾਰੀ ॥

ਚੁਥੀ ਚਿੰਚ ਚਲਾਯੋ ਕੁਝ ਘਾਇ ਨਾ ਆਯੋ ॥ ਕਨੈ ਰੋਵਨੈ ਜਾਨ ਦਾਸੀ ਬਾਚਾਯੀ ॥ 30 ॥ (3)

1. The Sikh Religion, Macauliffe, Vol V pp43-44.

2. Bachittar Natak Chand 20,21.

3. Ibid Chand 30.

"When I felt the touch of the arrow, my anger was kindled. I took up my bow and began to discharge arrows in abundance. Upon this my adversaries began to flee. I took aim and killed the young chief Hari Chand when he perished my heroes trampled their enemies underfoot".

ਹਸਾਵਲ ਹੋਇ :

ਜਈ ਬਾਣ ਨਾਜਾਇ ॥ ਤਈ ਹੋਸ ਜਾਗੈ ॥

ਤਰੀ ਨੀ ਗਾਈ ॥ ਤਨੀ ਬਾਣ ਹਾਈ ॥ 31 ॥

ਸਈ ਖੀਰ ਥਾਏ ॥ ਜੋਧੀ ਚਲਾਏ ॥

ਤਈ ਤਾਰਿ ਖਾਈ ॥ ਕਲੇ ਏਕੇ ਜੁਝਾਈ ॥ 32 ॥

ਹਰੀ ਚੰਦ ਮਾਰੇ ॥ ਸੁ ਜੋਧਾ ਨਲਾਰੇ ॥ ਮੁਕਾਏਸ ਗਈ ॥ ਵਰੈ ਰਾਨ ਘਾਏ ॥ 33 ॥

ਹਟੈ ਤਿਯਗ ਭਾਏ ਸਈ ਲੁਸ ਪਾਏ ॥ (2)

ਭਈ ਜੀਤ ਮੇਰੀ ॥ ਲਿਖਾ ਰਾਨ ਹੋਈ ॥ 34 ॥

Saina Pat, the author of Gur-Sobha, who was contemporary of Guru Gobind Singh has also given Guru's encounter with Hari Chand in these words:-

ਤੈਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ - ਜਹ ਸਿੰਘੁ ਖੁੰਧ, ਤੀਰਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਖੁੰਧ
ਨਿਰਾਜ ਹੋਇ :-

ਹਰੀਸ ਚੰਦ ਆਨ ਹੈ ॥ ਗਾਨ ਖਨ ਖਨ ਹੈ ॥

ਨਿਰਾਰ ਖਨ ਖਾਚਿਓ ॥ ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਹੈ ਆਇ ਨਾ ਆਇਓ ॥ 42 ॥

ਸੁ ਰਾਨ ਜੁਰੇ ਕੇ ਰਯੇ ॥ ਨਾ ਰਾਮ ਲਾਗੇ ਭਯੇ ॥ ॥

ਦੁਖੀਓ ਖਨ ਖਾਚਿਓ ਸਿਭਾਗ ਰ ਨਿਰਾਚਿਓ ॥ 43 ॥

ਚਿਤਰ ਮਾਰਿ ਨਿ ਓ ॥ ਦਿਵਾਨ ਪਾਰਿ ਖੀ ਓ ॥

ਚੁੰਡੀ ਸੁ ਚਿੰਚ ਰੰਚਈ ॥ ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਪੁਤਰ ਰੰਚਈ ॥ 44 ॥

ਪਿਤਾਰ ਵਾਰ ਸਾਰਈ ॥ ਗਾਨ ਖਨ ਗਾਈ ॥

ਚਗਾਇ ਜੀਤ ਮਾਰਿਓ ॥ ਸ ਦੁਰ ਨੇ ਨਿਰਾਚਿਓ ॥ 45 ॥ ਆਏ ਖੀਰ ਧਾਈ ॥ (3)

ਆਪਾ ॥ ਖਨ ਗਾਈ ॥ ਹਰੀਸ ਚੰਦ ਮਾਰਿਓ ॥ 46 ॥

1. The Sikh Religion, Macauliffe, p. 44
2. Bachittar Natak, Chhand 31, 32, 34.
3. Saina Pat Ra chit Siri Guru Sobha, Dr. Ganda Singh Ppl-2.

In this way the battle ended with the death of Hari Chand Handuria. After this the relations with Hill rajas including Handur became very strained. There occurred some petty disputes between the Sikhs and the hill men about the supply of grass and fuel. The hill-chiefs undertook the supply of grass and fuel but failed. The Sikhs were again constrained to go to forest for that purpose. Thereupon in 1700 A.D. Raja Bhim Chand with the help of Handur chief attacked the Sikhs in the forest but were completely routed. In the same manner, the hill rajas made several unsuccessful attempts on the Sikhs¹ while collecting grass and fuel in the forest.

First battle of Anandpur 1700 A.D.

The ruler of Handur participated in the battles of Anandpur against Guru Gobind Singh. The friendship of the Handur with the Sikh Gurus ended with the death of Raja Dharm Chand in 1701 A.D. After Dharm Chand the ruler of Handur joined with the Kahlur against Guru Gobind Singh. They made the expulsion of the Guru their common interest. Actually five battles were fought at Anandpur, two of them (first and last) were very important.

1. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 175

When the hill chiefs failed to oust the Guru from the hills, Bhim Chand of Kahlur convened a conference of the neighbouring Rajas and held a council of war against the Guru. The Rajas of Kahlur, Guler, Daraul, Parauli, Dadwal, Srinagar, Katgarh and other states agreed to fight the Sikhs. They marched with their combined forces of 20,000 and besieged the Anandpur in 1700 A.D. The seige continued for two months, during which the invaders sustained a heavy loss at the hands of Sikhs. Guru defended himself with 8,000 men. The first defeat of hill chiefs compelled them to peace negotiations. But the peace negotiations were totally temporary because after a few days they again attacked the Guru, though their attack was also repulsed very strongly by the Sikhs. The hill chiefs secretly applied to the Governor of Sarhind for help against Guru Gobind Singh. The latter with the sanction of Mughal Emperor despatched 2,000 troops under Yakub Khan and Ali Mardan for their help. Not only this, but two generals namely Adina Beg and Painda Khan were also sent by the Emperor. But all these attacks were strongly repulsed with heavy losses by the Sikhs.

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1. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 175
 2. Ibid., p. 176
 3. This is not the Painda Khan who was killed by the Sixth Guru.
 4. The Sikh Religion, Macauliffe, Vol. V, p. 124

Second Battle of Anandpur 1703 A.D.

In the meantime two or three minor battles were held between the Guru and the joint hill forces. With their crushing defeat in the previous battles, the hill rajas were greatly terrified ~~with slander~~¹ and submitted a joint petition to the Emperor Aurangzeb for help. Raja Bhup Chand of Handur who came to the throne in 1705 A.D, braver than his followers, said that nothing could be gained by again seeking the assistance of the Emperor. They ought to be able to defend themselves if all the hill rajas concerned were to contribute reasonable contingents. He proposed the measure to invest Guru's capital Anandpur² and starve its occupants into submission. Should any hill chief not join in this enterprise, the others were to hold no intercourse with him but treat him as an enemy. This joint resolution was passed by the chiefs on the proposal of Handur chief, Bhup Chand. In this battle Ajmir Chand of Kahlur and Bhup Chand of Handur played a leading role. The battle began on February 1703 A.D. and fighting was violent and impetuous. The leading³ chiefs of this battle collected about one million men

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1. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion p. 178
 2. Ibid.
 3. Emperor Aurangzeb sent large forces under famous generals like Amir Khan, Nazabat Khan, Haibat Khan, Said Khan, Hamzan Khan and Dina Beg Khan from Delhi for their help.

where as the Guru had ten thousand. The seige of Anandpur was continued. The besiegers were extremely tired with the passage of one year and nine months in seige and they sent sacred oaths of cow and Quran on behalf of Hindus and Muslims that if the Guru evacuated the fort he would be¹ let alone to go to any place he pleased. However, all these oaths proved false in the due course and the Guru had to vacate the fort and Anandpur itself. The helping hill chiefs including Handur, who united against the Guru had to share the expenditure of Mughal forces along with² their own.

Relations with the Sikh Chiefs

After Bhup Chand the circumstances prevailing in the state compelled the forthcoming rulers of Handur to be converted into Sikhs. Raja Gaje Singh's son, Ram Saran Singh wrote many works in Persian at the time of Sarhind plunder (Banda Bahadur's attack in 1710 A.D.) which were available at Mian Goverdhan Singh's library in the state when Lala Bihari Lal the author of Taraikh-e-Riasat Malas

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1. History and Philosophy of Sikh Religion, p. 183
 2. The Battles of Guru Gobind Singh, p. 55
The Guru himself refers to this oath in his letter to Aurangzeb. The lines are as translated by Macauliffe (page 202) it would read: "As have no faith in thy oath which thou tookest the one God" I witness I have not a particle of confidence in the thee. Thy treasurer and thy ministers are all false. He who putteth faith in thine, oath as Quran is thereby a ruined man".

completed his work in 1929 A.D. The names of those works were not available. The author has given a translation of that manuscript which highlight the relations of Raja Gaje Singh with the various Sardars. According to Raja Ram Saran, "In 1820 sambat (1764 A.D.) the Sikhs from different parts of the country united together. They killed Nawab Zainkhan who was appointed as Faujdar by the Delhi Government (Sic¹ Zain Khan was appointed faujdar by Ahmed Shah Abdali) After this the Sikhs marched as plunderers towards Makhawal (Anandpur) which was the revered place of their forefathers and was used for worship purposes. The Sikhs also took in possession three forts namely Alampur, Awankat and Gullarwala along with the lower portion of Kohistan which was previously in possession of my father. My father, Gaje Singh was very far-sighted and true diplomat. When he saw that there is no alternative except buttering the Sikhs, he met their leader S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia. My father established cordial relations with him. After that Gaje Singh talked to get back his ancestral territories. On this issue S. Jassa Singh said that in Awankot fort there will remain our police station and you have to pay Rs. 500 annually to Sikhs for the defence of your state. If you are agreed to these terms, you can have the forts and

territories. My father was helpless and he had to agree to these terms unwillingly. After the Gaje Singh captured his Kohistan areas, S. Jassa Singh appointed Mastan Singh alongwith few sepoys as inspectors at Awankot fort. He remained there for four years. In the fifth year S. Jassa Singh came back and S. Hari Singh Dallewala captured these territories from my father. He removed Ahluwalia Sardar's officers from Awankot fort and he himself kept the agreement for four years. After that Dallewala chief started atrocities on the people. Upon this my father felt very bad and he called Faizalpuria Sikhs for the protection of the state on fixed pay. With the help of Faizalpuria Sardars Raja Gaje Singh took back the areas of lower Kohistan and Kahlur". The above work of Raja Ram Saran Singh highlights the relation of Sikhs with his father. In this way Gaje Singh with diplomacy saved his state¹ from the attacks of Sikhs and made compromise with them.

Raja Ram Saran Singh further wrote that Raja Gaje Singh was very far-sighted. He thought that with revengeful thought the Sikhs must assemble at the Holi festival at Anandpur. On their way to Anandpur they would harrass^{was} my subjects and their horses would spoil their crops.

1. Taraikh-e-Miasat Nalagarh, pp76-77.

Keeping all the things in view, my father selected a area for their camp. He constructed three forts respectively at Bunga, Basaut and Ghanoli. In this way Raja Gaje¹ Singh saved the state from disaster at the hands of Sikhs.

Relations with Raja Ram Saran Singh

Raja Ram Saran Singh came to throne in 1785 A.D. (1842 sambat). He was the great extentionist of the ruling line. The Sikhs came in conflict with Ram Saran Singh in 1791 A.D., in the battle of Gullarwala. The Gallarwala pargana was a bone of contention between the Sikhs and chief of Handur because in the reign of Raja Gaje Singh this pargana was given to the Sodhis of Anandpur² by one Mastu Kanet in 1781 A.D. (Kanet leaders who took Pahlu from Sodhis of Anandpur and gave them Gallarwala pargana). When Ram Saran Singh succeeded to throne, the state had little possessions because most of the territories and forts of Handur were grabbed by Kahlur chief in the reign of Gaje Singh. Moreover by this time Kahlur chief was able to win over Sodhis of Anandpur and some other Sikh Sardars. So they both joined hands.

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1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, pp78-79.
 2. Ibid. pp75-76 Author says that Ram Saran born in sambat 1818 (1761 A.D.) When Gullarwala pargana was taken by sodhis, he was 20 years old. So it is clear that this pargana was given to Sodhis in 1781 A.D.

The Gullarwala battle was fought with the Kahlur chief in which he was aided by Sodhis. For Raja Ram Saran Singh of the main purpose of this battle was to get back the lost forts and territories of Handur. Ram Saran Singh collected 20,000 armed persons including Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra, Jaswal, Chamba, Nahan, Kotlehr and Mian Gokal Chand Wazir and S. Hari Singh Dhallewalia. On the other hand were Raja Maha Chand of Kahlur, S. Khushal Singh, Dharm Singh Amritsaria, S. Tara Singh Majithia, Darbara Singh Akali, S. Desa Singh of Anandpur, Sodhi Nahar Singh alongwith Sodhis of Anandpur and many other Sikh Sardars¹. The number of their forces was more than 35,000. This battle was fought for few days at Gullarwala fort. And the Sikhs alongwith Kahlur chief suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Raja Ram Saran Singh. In this way he ousted the Sodhis from Gullarwala pargana and not only this but he also was able to get back his territories from neighbouring chief of Kahlur.

Relations with Patiala State

In the early nineteenth century (in the days of Maharaja Ranjit Singh) this Malagarh state happens to be

1. Taraikh-e-Riasat Malagarh, pp 78-79.

in cis-Satluj state. Hence it came under the protection of British Government. After the Gurkhas invasion of 1813 A.D. there developed more cordiality between Patiala and Nalagarh because in Gurkha battle Nalagarh state played a very important role with the help of Britishers. On the other hand Patiala state also sent its troops¹ for the help of British government. However, later on both the states came closer to each other as we learn that daughter of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala was married to Captain Surindra Singh, son of Raja Jogindra Singh of Nalagarh. On succeeding to the gaddi, with the government approval Captain Surindra Singh entered into a treaty with Patiala government. By that treaty Nalagarh state was jointly administered with Patiala² State.

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1. Punjab Government Record Office Publication
Monograph 19- British Relations with the Cis-
Satluj States 1809-1823 by Mian Bashir Ahmed Farooqi
 Lahore, 1942, p. 45.
 2. Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p. 85

CHAPTER V

RELATIONS WITH BRITISH 1813 to 1911 A.D.

Nalagarh state was one of the Cis-Sutlej hill states ruled by the Rajput Rajas. In order to understand their relations with the British one has to study the records of Anglo-Gurkha war of 1814 A.D. Because these hill states were first attacked by the Gurkhas and later on these were protected by the British arms. When the Gurkhas attempted the conquest of these hill states, their chieftains appeared for the first time in the official British correspondence.¹ The records of Ludhiana Agency from 1814 to 1816 A.D. mainly deal with Gurkhas and their relations with the protected States in the Cis-Sutlej hills. The Agency records provide the necessary background to the Anglo-Gurkha war of 1814 and the ensuing concern of the British in the fortunes of the chiefs of the Cis-Sutlej areas.

Circumstances which led to British help

Raja Ram Saran Singh was the most important ruler

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1. Punjab Government Record Office Publication Monograph No. 19- British Relations with the Cis-Sutlej States 1809-1823 by Mian Bastiar Ahmed Farooqi, p. 43

of the Nalagarh state. He ruled for sixty years and greatly expanded the state. Due to his expansions his relations with the neighbouring state Bilaspur became more strained. The ruler of Bilaspur invited the Gurkhas from Nepal to attack Nalagarh and Kangra, the two strong¹ enemies of the Bilaspur in 1803 A.D. Nalagarh suffered a lot during the Gurkha campaign of 1803 A.D. After the strong resistance of about three years, Raja Ram Saran Singh had to leave the famous fort of Ramgarh which was occupied by the Gurkhas along with other territories of Nalagarh and other Cis-sutlej hill states. Raja Ram Saran Singh's defeat by Gurkhas not only shattered the power of Nalagarh but also horrified the whole region. This warfare in Nalagarh continued uptill 1806 A.D.

In the year 1809 A.D. Gurkhas attacked Kangra, one of the most important hill states in Punjab. The ruler of Kangra, Raja Sansar Chand Katoch sought the help from Maharaja Ranjit Singh to oust Gurkhas from his territories.² Driven by the superior might of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, their leader Amar Singh Thappa had established himself at Arki, in the small state of Bhagal. The Arki chief had been driven into exile by Gurkha leader. Amar Singh Thappa

1. The Tribune, November 1, 1956.

2. Rajas of the Punjab, Vol. I, Lepel Griffin, London, 1873, p. 144.

wrote to colonel Ochterlony, a British commander requesting assistance in his designs against Kot Kangra, which the latter flatly refused.¹

The Gurkha influence remained in the hills for 1803 to 1815. In the meantime they ruled very hard. Even then, people could remember the incidents of Gurkha rule. It is said that the Gurkhas used to snatch the eatables from the people and on their refusal they were beaten and punished severely. Their revenue collecting methods were very harsh and painful to the people.² During this period the British government was expanding its influence in the Cis-Sutlej region.

Invitation to British

After the Gurkha invasion of 1803 A.D. Raja Ram Saran Singh threw his lot with the British.³ Keeping in sight his decreasing power in 1805 A.D. Raja Ram Saran Singh sought the permission from Government to meet Lord Lake, the then Commander-in-Chief of the British. Raja Ram Saran approached Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal, through his agent to meet Lord Lake. At that time Lord Lake was busy in the the suppression of Pindaris. So Raja Ram Saran met the

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1. Ochterlony to Lushington December 16, 1809. B.K. 10Lt 38. Original. British Relations with Cis-Sutlej States Punjab Government Publication monograph No. 19, p. 43,44.
 2. Tarikh-e-Riasat Malagarh, p. 82
 3. His Imperial Majesty George V and the Princes of India, R.K. Khosla, Lahore, 1937, p. 193.

British Colonel Sir David Ochterlony at Ludhiana and told him the long tale of Gurkha aggression and highhandedness with the hill people. At this Colonel Ochterlony promised help to Raja Ram Saran Singh.

Colonel Ochterlony began to look at the presence of the Gurkhas in such close proximity with considerable apprehension. At the close of 1809 A.D. he wrote to the Government "but the important point lies in, that they (the Gurkhas) might extend their attack on the land which we think is in British protection. There is no yet fixed limit and the scarcity of the British knowledge of the geography might enable them to advance further while the British were unaware of the fact"¹. These fears were not unfounded as the Gurkha encroachment were being insidiously extended against the protected hill states. The Gurkhas now advanced their claim on the valley of Pinjore. Captain Birch prepared a sketch map of the valley showing that the claim was inadmissible and recommended it on the other hand as a suitable outpost for the united forces of Karnal and Ludhiana². So the Gurkha claim was resisted

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1. British Relations with Cis-Sutlej States, p. 43
Ochterlony to Lushington, December 30, 1809. 10Lt
43 original.
 2. Ibid., May 3, 1809 BK 10, Lt. 59 original.

and they were definitely told that the British government would not allow any interference with the territories of the chiefs bordering on the hills who had come under¹ British protection.

By the year 1814 A.D., the Gurkhas conquest between² the Sutlej and Jamuna, included Nahan, Nalagarh,³ Bilaspur, a large portion of Bashahir, twelve smaller states (thakrari) and the thakraris dependent on Sirmuir the revenue of which amounted to Rs. 3,81,500 per annum. The Gurkha troops occupying this territory were estimated at 5250 men, of whom 1600 were in Nahan and 2000 with Amar Singh⁴ at Arki. Amar Singh continued his steady advance into Cis-Sutlej hills conquering and annexing several places in the kingdom of Nepal.

The British Government were constantly protesting to the Nepal Government against the raids and usurpations of the Gurkha generals in the Cis-Sutlej hills but with no effect. Ochterlony wrote to Amar Singh Thappa, demanding

2. Ibid Ochterlony to Amar Singh without date BK 11 Lt. 49. Translation.
2. Although the Gurkhas invaded the Cis-Sutlej hill states on the invitation of Bilaspur state but even then the Gurkhas did not spare the Bilaspur.
3. The twelve smaller states were Keenthal, Mahlog, Bhajji Bhagal, Bhagat, Kothar, Konihar, Dhami, Jubbla, Balsan, Mangal and Kamarsen.
Government to Colonel Ochterlony dated 30th September and 1st October 1814.
4. The Rajas of the Punjab, Vol. I, p. 144

the restitution of the villages recently usurped by him.¹
 The Gurkha commander plainly told the Colonel that he²
 had no intention of acceding to the British demands.
 At this Ochterlony warned the chiefs of Mani Majra,
 (near Chandigarh), Patiala and others who owned their
 tracts on the border areas of the hills to hold themselves³
 in readiness to act against the Gurkhas.

On September 3, 1814 a proclamation was issued by Ochterlony to the chiefs whose possessions were immediately below the hill frontier. The proclamation was meant to prevent supplies to the Gurkhas. "Understanding that the garrison of Nalagarh, and other places belonging to the Gurkhas, prevent any produce of the hills being brought into your territory, this is by way of proclamation to you to direct that you give the most particular orders to your thanedar and public servants of every description not to allow a single article to be sent into the hills and if they detect any attempting to convey grain or anything else, immediately apprehend him- you are responsible for the

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1. British Relations with Cis-Sutlej States- Government publication Ochterlony to J. Adam June 16, 1813 BK Lt. 49.
 2. Ibid, July 23, 1813 BK 13 Lt. 50.
 3. Ibid, June 16, 1813 BK 13 Lt. 49.

conduct of your servants and will be called to account if¹ they disobey the foregoing instructions". Soon after the open conflict broke out.

Battle of Malagarh and Ramgarh in 1814 A.D.

In order to check the advance of the Gurkhas the British and the Malagarh forces had to fight three important battles in the Malagarh state. After these well-contested battles the British were able to capture four important forts of Malagarh viz forts of Malagarh, Taragarh, Ramgarh and Malaon. It is quite relevant to give the details of how these forts were captured one by one by the allied forces of British and Malagarh state.

On the 1st November 1814 the Government of India was compelled to declare war against Gurkhas as the ground was already prepared. Moreover, the Gurkhas had for the years been encroaching on British territory at the foot of the² hills. This battle was fought at Malagarh. First of all General Ochterlony inspected the state thoroughly. He marched into the hills via Ropar. After the battle of Malagarh he captured Malagarh and Taragarh forts on

1. Ibid, October 2, 1814 B. 15 Lt. 13.

2. The Rajas of the Punjab, Vol. I, ppl44-145.

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November 5 and 8 respectively from the Gurkhas. Since these forts were captured with the help of the ruler of Nalagarh and they previously belonged to the state they were restored to the Nalagarh state. Raja Ram Saran Singh its ruler occupied these forts with the help of the British arms within a week of attack.

After conquering Nalagarh and Taragarh forts British army along with the forces of Raja Ram Saran Singh approached towards Rangarh fort via Rawalsar.² Rangarh was very old and strong fort of Nalagarh state. But at that time the fort was the strongest cantonment of Gurkhas. The Britishers and the allied forces set up their camps two miles away from the fort. The British forces attacked first and Amar Singh Thappa, the Gurkha commander came with 5000 men to save Rangarh from the Malaon fort. A furious battle was fought and the Gurkhas had upper hand in the first instance. A brave British Lieutenant, George Thomas William³ was killed in this battle on 26th November, 1814. In the first half it became difficult for the British and Nalagarh states forces to attack Gurkhas as they had camped in the lower portion and consequently their cannons

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1. Tarikh-e-Risalat Nalagarh, p. 84
 2. This place is between Rangarh and Ramshahr. It is different from Mandi's Rawalsar.
 3. Uptill now Lieutenant George Thomas's grave is present near the ruins of Rangarh fort.

could not work effectively. General Ochterlony played a trick and marched towards Malaon fort. At this a large portion of Gurkha army left the Rangarh fort in order to save Malaon. As soon as the Gurkhas left the fort, Raja Ram Saran Singh attacked and seized the fort on the advice of British commander Ochterlony. In this way after a tough fight Raja Ram Saran Singh and British forces won¹ the battle of Rangarh on 11 February 1815 A.D. In order to save his life Amar Singh Thappa fled to the Malaon fort.

In the next few months many other territories of the Cis-Sutlej hills like Deothal and Rella were taken back from Gurkhas. Now combined forces marched towards Malaon fort. They set up their camps on the banks of Gambhar river on which Malaon fort was situated. On the other hand Gurkhas camped on Surajgarh fort which was situated at a small distance on the other bank of Gambhar river. After a strong battle the combined forces compelled² Amar Singh to leave the fort of Malaon on May 8, 1815 A.D.

After suffering a defeat at the hands of Britishers and Nalagarh state forces, Amar Singh Thappa signed a convention on May 15, 1815. In this convention Amar Singh

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1. Tarikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 85
 2. Ibid.

agreed to withdraw the Gurkha army from the Cis-Sutlej hills and to surrender all the possessions and forts situated between the river Sutlej and Jamuna. A treaty of Sagauli which finally confirmed the above convention¹ was signed on December 2, 1815 A.D.

The Results of Gurkha War

The Gurkha war of 1814 A.D. is a land mark in the history of Malagarh state. Before this war Malagarh state was not considered of much importance by the British. With the help of the Britishers the Malagarh state was able to get back its lost territories. This cemented the relations of Malagarh state with the British Government. Another very important result of the Gurkha war was that it brought Patiala and Malagarh states closer to each other. Raja Karam Singh of Patiala (1813-1845) state sent its troops for the help of Britishers

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1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries compiled by C.U. Aitchison Vol. II, Calcutta, 1931 No. XLIX.

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in the Gurkha war. And like Malagarh, Patiala state was also a very strong ally of the British Government. Right from 1856 to 1947 A.D. both the states remained loyal to Britishers. In a way Gurkha war helped the two states in establishing their friendly relations.

The proclamation of protection issued to the Cis-Sutlej states in 1809 A.D. was also applied to the hill states. The chiefs were guaranteed full enjoyment of their

1. (a) The Punjab North West Frontier Province and Kashmir, Sir James Dowie, p. 275.

(b) Punjab Government Record Office Publication Monograph No. 19. P. 45-46.

In recognition of the help of his troops, the Governor General in council granted the Maharaja of Patiala two Samads conferring upon him and his heirs for ever the sixteen Parganas¹ in exchange for a Nazrana of two lacs and eighty thousand rupees.² These parganas, which were to be included in the hilly districts of Patiala, were taken from the Rajas of Keonthal and Bhagal on account of their unfriendly conduct during the Gurkha war.³

(i) These parganas were- Waholee, Kuljoan, Bunthura, Koosala, Chabrate, Kehmulee, Buddhur, Sangrur, Torastogawa, Jubbal, Pallahotti, Bhagat, Parleekhar, Kearatin, Gagot Guru and Taksal.

(ii) Ochterlony to Government September 23, 1815 BK.

(iii) Ibid., p. 46

territories under the general control of the British Government to whose power they had to submit their mutual differences for arbitration. Unlike the Cis-Sutlej chiefs, the hill chiefs were put under certain obligations in return for this protection. They were to allow free passage to the British merchants and their goods. They had to furnish a certain number of bagar labourers and¹ had to construct twelve feet wide roads in territories. Three battalions called the Nasiri Battalions were stationed in the protected hill states. Military cantonments were made at Sabatu, Nahan, and Malaon of Nalagarh. Certain areas around these stations were ceded to meet the expenses of the British troops. Owing to the difficulties of supervising the whole of the protected hill area, the petty principalities were placed under the general surveillance² of the bigger states.

As a consequence of Gurkha war the states of Nalagarh, Sirmur, Bilaspur, Jubbal, Keonthal, Kumbharsen, Balsan, Bashahr, Katgarh and Baghal were restored to their rightful³ owners. The chiefs of these states were granted special

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1. British Relations with Cis-Sutlej states. Monograph 19, Govt. Published records, p. 46.
 2. Rose to Metcalfe, November 6, 1815 BK. 15 Lt. 64. Original.
 3. Ochterlony to Government July 28 1815 BK 14 Lt. 41 Original. Also of September 28, 1815 BK L.T. 36.

sanads. An official correspondence was started between the Nalagarh state and British government after this war. In 1815 A.D. Raja Ram Saran Singh received a Sanad (No. XXX) confirming him and his heir for ever in all his ancestral possessions with the exception of a half share in village Faizallapura and the fort of Malaon and its surrounding villages. As the services of Raja Ram Saran Singh during the war had been exceptional, no tribute was imposed by the Sanad, the Malaon fort was retained for the use of military post by the British Government.¹ In the same year a petty district of Bharauli near Kot Khai was granted to Raja Ram Saran Singh as a reward for his zealous services during the Gurkha campaign. But its distance from Nalagarh, turbulence of the people and his own unpopularity in that quarter led him to agree to its transfer to another chief the Rana of Balsan.² The fort of Malaon, however, returned to the Raja in 1846 A. D. in recognition of his fidelity in Sikh War.³ Government's

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1. A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, Vol. I p. 16
 2. (i) Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 6
(ii) A collection of Treaties Vol. I, p. 16
Bharauli coming again into the possession of Government was sold for rupees 8000 to the Rana of Balsan whose territory it adjoins.
 3. For details see Appendix No. 3, Sanad No. XXXII.

half share in village Faizullapura was transferred to the Raja in 1852 in return for the cessation by him of an area of corresponding value elsewhere.¹ Raja Ram Saran Singh was confirmed by the Sanad dated 20th October 1815² to aid the British troops in the times of war. After the Gurkha war Raja Ram Saran Singh received an indemnity of one lakh of rupees in lieu of Satgarha forts which he returned to the Bilaspur chief.³

In conclusion of the Gurkha war Dr. Ganda Singh in his Patiala and East Punjab States Union writes, "At the conclusion of the war he (Raja Ram Saran Singh) was reinstated in his ancestral territory. It may however, be said to his credit that he refused to take over the districts that he himself conquered. Again in 1815, the hilly district of Barauli, which passed to the Government of India escheat by the extinction of its reigning family, was offered to him but that too he refused to accept saying that he had resolved not to add to his dominions. He improved and strengthened the fort of Palasi in the plains, on the bank of the Sutlej, with the sum of one lakh of

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1. A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, Vol. I, p. 16.
 2. See Appendix No. 2, Sanad No. XXX.
 3. Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p. 85.

rupees received from the government of India as indemnity for the Satgarha forts returned to the Raja of Bilaspur¹ after the Gurkha War".

After a very long and vigorous rule of 60 years Raja Ram Saran Singh was succeeded by his son Bije Singh in 1848. No important incident occurred in his reign. He died in 1856 A.D.

State under the British Rule

In 1856, after the death of Raja Bije Singh there was no capable ruler to govern the state. Bije Singh died without any male issue that is why the state lapsed under the British control.² During the outbreak of 1857 the³ state remained loyal to the British government.

Mr. Barness temporarily arranged the administration of the state and handed the state affairs to Lala Kewal Kishore Tehsildar. In hilly tracts a change in revenue assessment was made. Revenue in the form of kind, which was previously prevalent in the state was stopped. The cash

1. Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p. 82, 85.
2. Gazetteers of the Simla Hill States, p. 6
3. A brief record of services to the British Government by Raja Jogindra Singh of Malagarh and his ancestors-
Punjab State Archives, Patiala.

payment of four annas per mound was fixed. In addition to this he Khewat (list of villages according to crops) of every village was prepared in Hindi, in which the names of land owners and tenants were separately mentioned. The whole land was divided into irrigated and non-irrigated divisions. Begar (forced labour) and other miscellaneous exercises were abolished. In the plain tract the revenue was fixed at the rate of Rs. 17-16-14 per plough, on different kind of land. No problems aroused in the collection of revenue in the short rule of British in the Nalagarh state because British government made the revenue terms simple and lenient.

It was decided by the British government that the three sons of Raja Ram Saran Singh by his Brahmin wife should be given the combined Jagir of Rs. 10,000 and it was to be held by the Rani for one year.

Restoration of Gaddi

Raja Ugar Singh's succession was held in abeyance for a period of three years during which the state was directly ruled by the British. It was due to the help of his neighbour ruler, Maharaja Narendra Singh of Patiala, who took it on his own shoulders to bring justice to a brother¹ ruler in distress. With his keen efforts the gaddi was

1. Patiala & East Punjab States Union, p. 85.

again restored to the ruling house of Nalagarh.

In 1860, however, it was decided by the home authority to restore the state to Ugar Singh, who was the second son of Raja Ram Saran Singh. He was the most intelligent and capable of his brothers and had acted as wazir during the later portion of his father's reign. British government preferred to make him the chief of the state. His elder brother Fateh Singh, who was of unsound mind and younger Bir Singh were granted the Jagirs by the British Government. In addition to this they were privileged to collect the land revenue independently. Raja Ugar Singh who was installed on Gaddi, in 1860 received a khillat of Rs. 1,120 and seven gold mohars¹. A special sanad was granted on 19th January 1860 A.D. to Ugar Singh with the ^{hereditary} title of Raja.² By this Sanad a tribute of Rs. 5000 was imposed which Ugar Singh and his successors shall have to pay to the British Government.

In the early part of his reign Raja Ugar Singh administered the state on sound lines. He changed the revenue assessment into Batai and cash. He restarted the begar system, however after two years in 1862, abolished it.³ And percentage tax was imposed in place of begar. The land

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1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 6
 2. For details see Appendix No. 4, Sanad No. XXXIII.
 3. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 90-91.

revenue in the Gullarwala pargana was reduced as this pargana was reestablished after the war of Raja Ram Saran Singh with Sodhis of Anandpur. Besides this in 1863 on public complaint, Lord William, Superintendent of Hill States agreed to give some facilities to Nalagarh public. Raja Ugar Singh acted the same as he was directed by the Superintendent Hills.

When Ugar Singh's eldest son, Isri Singh attained the majority, dissension arose. His mother was from Jaswal state in the modern Hoshiarpur district, and was married before the accession of Ugar Singh to Nalagarh throne. After he became Raja he married another Rajput wife Chandel by caste. She resided at Palasi and was known as the Palasi Rani. Her only surviving son was known as Kanwar Joginder Singh, whom Raja Ugar Singh appointed as his successor¹ disregarding the claims of elder Isri Singh. Fateh Singh the elder brother of Ugar Singh instigated Isri Singh to struggle against his father for his right to throne. This led to a constant struggle for power between the two brothers.

Isri Singh's Rule

Raja Isri Singh succeeded his father on the death of Raja Ugar Singh in December 1876, it was decided that

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 7

Isri Singh was the rightful heir and he was installed with full powers in June 1877.¹ He had been residing at Garkhal near Kasauli during the last years of his father's reign, and was thus handicapped by a limited knowledge of the affairs of the state administration. Raja Isri Singh's administration was loose and was not a good administration. All the prisoners were released on the death of Ugar Singh and many officers were dismissed but Gulam Kadir the former wazir was re-appointed. Kanwar Jogindra Singh, the younger brother was awarded an annual pension of Rs. 20,060.² His mother was also suitably provided for maintenance. Wazir Gulam Kadir in capacity of being a wazir employed all his kiths and kins on various posts. He imposed new taxes and enhanced the land revenue. This led to discontentment and disturbances in the state, which were only quelled by the Superintendent Hill States proceeding to the spot with a force of British police. Wazir Gulam Kadir was subsequently dismissed and banished from the state.

As Raja Isri Singh did not prove to be a very good administrator, the state was indirectly guided by the British Government. As he was not a capable ruler the administration was therefore entrusted to a Council of old

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1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 6-7.
 2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, p. 91

officials which worked satisfactorily for thirteen years.¹
~~The Council's president was Dewan Inder Singh.~~² In 1893
 dissensions impelled the abolition of committee and
 Jawaharlal, an official of Nabha state was appointed manager
 to administer the state affairs. ^{This important post was held by}
^{many others like Karan Singh, Jogendra Singh, Sunder Singh, Hari Singh & Dewan Inder Singh.}^②

Isri Singh rendered the British government every
 possible help during the third Afghan war and the
 expeditions led by government against the North-Western
 Frontier tribes. He allowed the government to carry all
 the boulder and building stones required for the constru-
 ction of Sirhind canal free of royalty.³

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1. Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Dr. Ganda Singh, p. 85.
 2. Dewan Inder Singh was the president of the Council and he was author's great grandfather.
 3. A brief record of services rendered to the British government and Malagarh by Raja Jogindra Singh and his ancestors- Basta No; 26, File No. 40.

CHAPTER VI

RAJA JOGINDRA SINGH'S ADMINISTRATION 1912-1946 A.D.

Raja Jogindra Singh was one of the ablest rulers of Nalagarh who administered the state with efficiency. As his elder brother Isri Singh died in 1911 A.D. without any issue he ascended the throne in January 1912 A.D. When he came to the throne the state was not financially sound as he himself writes: "When I succeeded my elder brother Isri Singh, the state was under heavy debt and its sources of income were at their low ebb, I liquidated the debt within three years by retrenchment and economy in every line and husbanding all the sources of income".

Jogindra Singh had acquired a sufficient administrative experience during his brother's regime by working for sometime as ²wagir. That experience brought a lot of benefits to him. He brought all round developments in the state including administration, finance, revenue, education and public welfare etc. He brought administrative reforms in various spheres of administration. Following are the important reforms introduced by him:

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1. A brief record of services rendered to the British Government by Raja Jogindra Singh and his ancestors. Punjab State Archives Patiala- Nalagarh State Records, Miscellaneous file.
 2. Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab p. 539

Land Reforms

A special attention towards land revenue and land settlements was paid by the Raja because the state was financially unbalanced. The important land settlements of hill and plain tracts were made during his reign in 1924 and 1926 respectively. He modelled the revenue system of the state on that of the Punjab. There were two tehsils, hill and plain with tehsildars working under the supervision of the wazir, who exercised the powers of a collector.¹ Previously the first settlement of plain tract was carried out under the orders of Raja Ram Saran Singh. When the state lapsed to British control in the absence of a legitimate heir in 1857, Mr. Barnes, a British officer reduced by the summary settlement demand of Raja Ram Saran Singh by 32% and fixed a cash assessment of Rs. 39,544/- for the two tracts. In 1860 Raja Ugar Singh re-introduced the old system of collecting revenue both in kind and cash. Again in 1893 during Isri Singh's reign a summary settlement was made in which Batai and cash payment systems of assessment were revoked. All the previous measures could not satisfy the subjects.

1. Punjab States Gazetteers Vol. VIII Part A Chapter II,
P. 1.

Raja Jogindra Singh made the hill settlement in 1924 and revised the plain settlement in 1926. With the two settlements there had never been any difficulty in collecting land revenue. By the plain settlement of 1926 the (Ala-Malik) superior ownership in all lands was vested in the state and the zamindars were recognised as (Adna-Malik) inferior proprietors of the land. Occupancy tenants under section 5 to 8 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, were recognised with this settlement in the hill tracts. The rates of assessment proposed in the settlement were reasonable. A period of 30 years for the term of settlements was proposed by the settlement officer of the state.

Previously in 1857 A.D. a rough settlement of hill tract was also made in which all accounts of the crops for each village were prepared. Owners and tenants were separately entered and nature of the lands as irrigated and unirrigated was also specified. The people who were shown as proprietors in 1857 and those had pattas from the Raja have now been shown as Adna-Malik and the chief as Ala-Malik in the hill settlement of 1924. The persons whose possession of land proved to be of long standing but could not prove a claim to proprietary rights according to above two tests were entered as Adna-Malik¹ on payment of Nagrana to the state. With these two

1. Revenue Records of Nalagarh state Basta No. 41
 File No. 5- Settlement of Pahar Illaqa of the Nalagarh State 1924, PSA P.

settlements the cultivators were provided certain suitable facilities. The Raja established a organised revenue department with a tehsildar, a naib-tehsildar, four Kamungoes (3 field¹ and 1 office Kamungo) and 30 patwaris of junior staff.

In 1944, on government instructions, 'grow more food campaign' was tried in the state. In the light of this campaign, better irrigation, superior seeds and manure² facilities were given to the cultivators.

Forest and Hunting Reforms

The Nalagarh state was rich in forests and the forests brought a lot of income. Mostly the hill states^{forest} were covered with valuable forests of Bamboo and chil. Raja Jogindra Singh paid special attention towards state forests. Forests and all the waste lands were the property of the state. Of 63% of uncultivated area, and 18 percent of cultivated areas were under forests. The forests were of two kinds: Demarcated and undemarcated. The state had 59 forests in which 5 were reserved, 30 demarcated and 24³ undemarcated. A working plan was drawn up in 1915 and was

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1. Annual Administration Report of Nalagarh for 1943-44. Basta No. 3. Serial No. 9, RSAP.
 2. Agriculture Records. Basta No. 5, File No. 11 'Grow more food campaign' in the state, RS.A, Patiala.
 3. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 2

in force. Under this plan the state had a Ranger, two foresters, a clerk, three peons and a staff of 22 forest guards. A report on state forests was submitted to the government and a post-war reconstruction and development scheme was passed. This scheme was based on the Indian Forest Policy. The Nalagarh state forest department was supervised and advised by the highly efficient and technically skilled¹ government forest officers of Simla Forest Division. The progress of the department was checked regularly every year by the D.V.E. of Simla. Raja Jogindra Singh adopted the following measures in this concern:

(1) In some villages of the hill tracts there were very big undemarcated forests called shamlats. The hill people were using these shamlats as pasture lands because they did not have what they actually required. The state government asked the revenue department to prepare lists of such villages giving the number of their cattle and the areas of their grazing grounds. After keeping some areas for the grazing plots the rest was closed for ten years. But this project could not take practical shape because of serious opposition, tumult and revolts which occurred in the hill tract in 1918 and 1920.

1. Administrative Reports File No. 35, Basta No. 3
P.S. A., Patiala.

In view of this situation the Raja made some relaxation in this project and some forest areas were again opened as the grazing grounds.

(2) In order to save the cow-dung manure for the agriculture of the state a resolution was passed by the state government, that the forest which were not of much value, on the neighbourhood of the villages could be used for the fuel purposes by the peasant community. With this resolution the state was able to save the natural manure of cow-dung.

(3) Some measures were also taken in prevention of floods, preservation of high forests, correct cropping and land management and afforestation of available waste and grazing lands etc. The Raja had to face opposition in many places.

(4) According to Forest Settlement Report of 1932 the granting of permission to break land for cultivation, inside the village demarcated forest was stopped. In addition to this, necessary amendments were made in the provisions of the Forest Settlement Report at the time of its revision.¹

1. Post-War Reconstruction and Development scheme for
Nalagarh, File No. 6 Basta No. 17, PSA, Patiala.

(5) Many slopes of the demarcated village forests in the hill tract were covered mainly with shrubs and Aupherbia and other inferior species which had little economic value and were only serving the purpose of a protective cover to the soil against erosion. In such cases an effort was made by the State Forest Department to remove the inferior stuff and replaced it by useful and valuable tress. Moreover few other steps were also taken to follow the land preservation and Indian Forest Act by the Raja.

(6) To facilitate inspection and increase the economic and commercial value of the forest stock, new inspection paths in the important forests were made. Chowkis were made for forest guards. For the convenience of the touring officers an extra room was made to these chowkis. This work was a bit expensive and was dependent on the available funds.

(7) On the instruction of Indian Forest Act, salaries of the forest staff were increased.

In addition to the forest reforms hunting liberty was also granted by the Raja. The Nalagarh state forests were generally infested with fierce wild beasts like leopards and swine etc. They did great damage to the lives of human being, cattle and crops. Especially the swines

and wild stags were most troublesome. The tenants and poor cultivators were helpless in the matter of ravages caused by these wild animals. They often approached the ruler with a request to arrange a few hunting excursion to shoot out as great number of animals as possible.

Previously there were certain restrictions placed on the hunting of wild beasts by the Zamindars. Raja Jogindra Singh granted the freedom to shoot all sort of wild animals and birds doing harm to their crops, within one's own fields. Only one or two thick forests were prohibited¹ for shooting.

Educational Reforms

Under rule of Joginder Singh special measures were taken in the field of education. In his liberal rule, education received special attention. Educationally the Nalagarh state was the most backward. It is said that a primary school was opened thrice at Ramshahr, a flourishing village in the centre of a well-populated hill area but it had to be discontinued for want of sufficient number of students. It shows how backward the people of Nalagarh were. The Raja took great interest in the state education as he himself was an educated man from

1. Annual Administrative Report of Nalagarh for 1943-44. P.S.A. Patiala.

Aitchison Chiefs College, Lahore. He took the following measures in the educational sphere:

1. The school at Malagarh known as Isri School because it had been opened by his brother Isri Singh was raised to High standard.
2. A wide network of Primary Schools was spread throughout the state.
3. After sometime all the primary schools were upgraded to middle standard. There were only six primary schools in the state when he ascended to Gaddi.
4. Education throughout the state was made totally free.
5. Qualified and trained staff was appointed for the schools.
6. Scholarships up to the value of Rs. 1,000 were annually awarded to the poor and deserving students.
7. Emphasis was laid on Adult Education. Alongwith primary and secondary education a few centres of adult education on experience basis were also opened by the Raja. The remarkable progress within few months¹ proved that the move shall immensely benefit the state people. The Raja started a drive against illiteracy in the state as he believed that much troubles in the administration were due

1. Miscellaneous file for 1939. Basta No. 28.
Sr.No. 63. P.S.A. P.

to misunderstandings on the part of state subjects, who were easily misled by the outside forces because of their illiteracy and imparting knowledge were the fore-most duties of a ruler. Because of his great ideas he was revered and adored by his subjects who consider him their 'common father'. He even announced that he would meet the expenses of teaching staff from his own private purse if the state could ill-afford to pay teachers for the diffusion of knowledge.

With the keen efforts of the Raja the high school of the state was made well-equipped and well-staffed with qualified and experienced teachers. Every possible effort was made to make teachers happy and prosperous. In order to content the staff a provident fund was instituted and their salaries were paid regularly. Increments were¹ regularly given to the deserving hands.

In regard of free education in the state, Sheikh Allah Rakha a former deputy Inspector of Schools the then Ambala Division remarked, "It is really a very great boon for the people of state as well as those of the British² territory to have free education upto the high standard."

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1. Educational Records of the Nalagarh State Basta No. 14 Steps taken by the State to further education in Nalagarh state. Letter No. 23, Dec. 6, 1924, P.S.A.P.
 2. Ibid, File No. 4, Nalagarh School File P.S.A., P.

Besides above reforms the Raja also paid his attention toward welfare measures like introduction of local-self government, abolition of begar, establishment of police force, establishment of police stations and other benevolent works etc.

Introduction of Local Self Government

Introduction of Panchayats and a Municipal Committee was one of the most important welfare measures of Raja Jogindra Singh. It was he who introduced the Panchayat system in the state. He gave facilities and guidance to the newly formed panchayats in order to make the system more effective and efficient. Various Panchayat centres were established at different villages and parganas. The responsible and reputed persons of the villages were entrusted with the functions of the Panchayats. These Panchayats were empowered to hear and dispose of criminal complaints and civil suits upto the value of Rs. 100/-. It helped to reduce the burden of the state because petty disputes of the villages were resolved by these Panchayats. Besides this many other works of village welfare were entrusted to them.

Along with Panchayats in villages, a town municipality was established in 1924 at Nalagarh. A Municipal act was prepared in 1943 in which elective system was introduced for its framing. Some municipal funds were extracted and were spent

with proper limitations for improving the sanitary and structural conditions of the town and for providing other modern amenities for its inhabitants, such as the building and maintenance of a public serais, library, reading rooms, public park and a radio-set to afford re-creation as well as upto date and correct information. Besides these some others works like arrangements of electrification and drinking water, octroi, repairing of roads, and cleanliness¹ of town etc. were bestowed to the Municipal Committee. In this way the Panchayats and municipalities shared a lot of work of the state in public welfare measures.

Abolition of Begar

For a very longtime the begar (forced labour) system was in practice in Nalagarh state. Although considerable efforts were made by the different rulers of the line but could not stop this practice. There was three types of begar prevalent in the state in the former days like, Begar on the occasion of deaths and marriages in the Raja's family and Begar for the construction and repair of the roads in the hill tracts. Another type of begar was that the rulers often demanded to kill the wild beasts. As the people were not ready to put their lives in danger, it was also considered as Begar.² With the passage of time there begars had been

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1. Administrative Records 1944, File No. 35 Basta No. 3 Raising the efficiency standard of the state administration. P.S.A.P.
 2. The Annual Administration Report of the Nalagarh state for the year 1943-44. P.S.A.P.

removed to some extent but were not totally abolished.

Previously no road-cess was charged from the people of hill tracts because they used to repair the roads themselves annually. But as the annual repair was unskilled and slipshod, therefore, they had to pay small cess in lieu of their personal service in this respect, as was being done by their brothers of plain tract. A cess of 3% on the land revenue was levied. Thus road begar was swept away from Nalagarh state administration. The Raja discontinued the extortion that was previously in vogue viz "Shadi gami ki begar". In his times it did not remain a forced labour or begar. It became understanding, free will, sense of cooperation and mutual relationship between the ruler and his subjects to work together at the occasions of marriages and funerals in the ruling family of the state. They were provided with free food and lodging by the ruler during their stay in the palace. Although the begar in the real sense of it did not exist in the state yet in whatever other form it existed was announced¹ to be unconditionally abolished by the Raja.

Establishment of Police Stations

He established a well-organised police department. Previously there was no such organisation in the state. For the maintenance of law and order in the state two

1. Miscellaneous Basta No. 24 1939.

Reforms in the Nalagarh State.

police stations were established at Nalagarh and Rawalsar with Chaukis at Baddi, Kundlu and Gullarwala pargana. At Nalagarh proper there were one inspector, one sub-inspector, 3 head-constables and 27 constables, while one head constable and 10 constables were stationed at Rawalsar. Two constables were posted to each Chauki. The wazir of the state was the¹ superintending head of the state police. In emergency cases the state could seek the help of the joint Reserve Police maintained by the Simla Hill States. With the organisation of Police the Crime rate in the state decreased. It helped the state to maintain peace and order.

Other Benevolent Works

Alongwith other welfare measures the Raja introduced the cooperation movement in the state in 1924 and more than 56 cooperative societies with a central bank at Nalagarh were established. A state public societies act was² passed in 1946. Where as the public health was concerned a hospital at Nalagarh, two dispensaries at Rawalsar and Hamgarh in the hill tract, an Ayurvedic and veterinary hospital at Nalagarh were opened by the Raja. In addition to this one touring vaid and one doctor were employed to tour through the remote areas of the state for distribution

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, p. 4
2. Rules and Acts Basta No. 43 Sr. No. 35.
Public Societies Act.

of medicines to the people who could not afford to go to
¹
 a dispensary.

All the roads in Nalagarh were metalled by the Raja. The Nalagarh town was connected with Ropar railway station by regular Bus service.

Raja Jogindra Singh died after the long rule of thirty four years in November 1946. His death was mourned in the Punjab Hill States because he was one of the oldest ruler amongst the Punjab ruling chiefs. He was succeeded by his son Captain Surindra Singh who since the Second War
²
 was working as Diwan in the state.

On succeeding to the Gaddi Captain Surindra Singh, with the approval of the Crown, entered into treaty with the Patiala Government. As a result of that his state was jointly administered with Patiala state. In view of the changing times this action of his stood out as unique and farsighted, as proved by the later developments, in the history of Indian States. During the short period of his rule he managed the affairs of the state creditably and was always popular among his subjects.

Like the other Punjab States Nalagarh acceded to the Indian Union on the lapse of British Paramountcy and
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 joined the Patiala and East Punjab States Union in 1948.

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1. Administration. File No. 6 Basta No. 3
 2. Miscellaneous File No. 134. Basta No. 31.
 3. Patiala and East Punjab States Union, p. 85

CONCLUSION

Situated at the foot hill of Shivalik range of Himalayas, at the distance of twelve miles north of Ropar, Malagarh State now included as one of the tehsils of district Solan, Himachal Pradesh, presents a very interesting and chequered history. With regard to its early history nothing is known except that its founder was Handu,¹ a Brahmin after whose name the state was known as Handur. This name remained popular till the end of 17th century as it is testified by Guru Gobind Singh in Bachittar Natak. The present name of state came into being in the 15th century when Raja Bikram Chand founded the town of Malagarh in 1421 A.D. and shifted his capital to this place. Later on it became so important that the entire state was named after this town. However, the name Handur was never deleted from the official records. It continued to be recorded uptill modern times alongwith its modern name of Malagarh. The official papers in Punjab State Archives, where the records of the state are preserved, indicate official seal wherein both the names are mentioned.

In the 12th century A.D. the Kahlur (Bilaspur) prince Ajai Chand, after falling out with his brother,

1. For details see Chapter II- Early History and its establishment.

Ajit Chand founded the state after conquering it from Handu. It appears that it was Handu, who established his power over the local tribal people of this area and in the later portion of his rule had become tyrant. This was the reason why his subjects invited Ajai Chand, who had been deprived of Kahlur throne, to conquer the state. So the real founder of this Rajput state was Ajai Chand whose descendants ruled over this state for a number of centuries. From 1100 A.D. to 1948 A.D. twenty seven rulers came on the throne. Only a few of them had left thier mark on the sands of time.

Although the state was very small in territorial size but it had imm ense importance as we find its mention by noted historians like Griffin in his Chiefs and Families of the Nots in the Punjab and the Rajas of Punjab. After independence its merger with Patiala and East Punjab States Union enhanced its importance as it was the only Hindu¹ Rajput state in the Union.

The rulers of the state belonged to the Chanderbansi clan of Rajputs. Raja Ajai Chand established his rule with power and courage. From that very time the Kahlur and Handur states became enemies of each other. We get many accounts of the warfare between the two rulers after its establishment. Raja Ajai Chand conquered a number of territories and did a lot for the welfare of his subjects

1. Historical background of Pepsu- A Punjab feature in The Tribune 1st Nov. 1956.

by founding new villages and providing water facilities.

The state had been on the invaders route from the north-west. It had narrow escape from destruction at the hands of Mughal invader Timur who passed on his way back from this area. Perhaps one of the reasons of its safety was its difficult hilly terrain in which it was situated.

The state had cordial relations with the Sikhs in the beginning of seventeenth century when its ruler Raja Dharm Chand invited Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru to settle at Kiratpur, in his territory which was just at the borders of Kahlur state, his traditional enemy. Perhaps it was done to have a sense of safety against the Kahlur state. It appears that later on the ruler of Kahlur was able to win over the brother of Handur chief, Hari Chand, to fight against Guru Gobind Singh. Hari Chand a prince of Handur fought against the Guru in the battle of Bhangani. Perhaps he joined the ruler of Kahlur out of frustration as his brother was helped by Guru Hargobind in the war of succession. Moreover, Hari Chand made the common cause of Hill states to fight against the rising sikh power under Guru Gobind Singh. He was killed by the Guru in the battle of Bhangani. In Bachittar Natak Guru has given a vivid account of the prominent role of Hari Chand Handuria and his heroic deeds in the battle of Bhangani. In the later 18th

1. For details see Chapter IV-Relations with the Sikhs

century Sodhis of Anandpur with the help of Kahlur chief occupied the Gullarwala pargana of the state. But its ruler Gaje Singh invited the Sikh chief Hari Singh of Dallewalla Misal to fight against the Sodhis and was successful in¹ ousting them from the state.

The state would have been wiped out from the map of Punjab Hill States had the British not saved the situation. In the early 19th century on the invitation of Bilaspur (Kahlur) chief the Gurkhas conquered the state ousting its ruler. It would have made an exit in the history had the Raja not sought the help of British. With their help he was able to recover his state. There occurred two important battles in Halagarh- one at Ramgarh fort and another at Lohar Ghats near Maloan fort. Griffin writes in Chiefs and Families of the Rote in the Punjab Raja Ram Saran Singh joined General Ochterlony when war was declared. Besides his natural dislike for the Gurkhas he had to take his revenge upon the Bilaspur chief who had caused all the trouble by calling in the foreigners. He behaved with consistent loyalty and on the conclusion of the campaign was rewarded by being reinstated in this² ancestral estates".

The Halagarh State had cordial relations with the British Government. It was in direct political relations

1. Ibid

2. Chiefs and Families of the Rote in the Punjab, Griffin p. 837.

with the Government of India through the Political Agent, Punjab Hill States Agency and the Resident for the Punjab States. It ranked fifth in the Punjab Hill States Agency and thirteenth in the Punjab States Agency. The State chief was entitled to be received by His Excellency the¹ Viceroy.

It will not be out of place to mention the main features of the administration in Nalagarh state before its merger in Patiala and East Punjab States Union. One of last rulers was Raja Jogindra Singh who did a lot to tone up the administration. During his rule (1912-1946 A.D.) the laws in force in state were nearly the same as were in vogue in British India with proper modifications to suit the local conditions and requirements, Emergency orders, central schemes and ordinances issued by the His Excellency the Governor-General and Crown Representative were generally adopted and put in force in the state. The Raja introduced the institution of local self-government. He established Panchayats in villages and a municipal committee at Nalagarh town. Though municipal committee was established in 1924 in Nalagarh yet it existed only in name. A separate department in this connection came into existence in the very late stage. There was no election system.

1. Nearly Reports on Native States under the Punjab Government from 1900 to 1921 A.D. Punjab State Archives, Patiala.

The income received from Octroi duty and one or two other ¹ taxes were not credited to the 'Municipal Fund'.

In 1908-9 a general hospital was opened in the later ² period of Raja Isri Singh's rule at Malagarh proper and before this we do not find any account of rulers' efforts towards public health. But his brother Raja Jogindra Singh showed his interest in this sphere. He opened few dispensaries in the hill and plain tracts respectively. Yet he could not succeed because of financial problems of the state. The hospital lacked efficient staff and well-equipped medical instruments.

Although different rulers adopted the different methods to collect land revenue and tried to improve the agriculture but there was no permanent method. Raja Jogindra Singh made permanent land settlements for 30 years in hill and plain tracts and brought certain reforms to improve the lot of cultivators. In this regard he succeeded upto certain extent as his subjects were ³ satisfied with the settlements.

Educationally the Malagarh state was very backward. The rulers took meagre interest in the educational sphere.

1. Administrative Reports of Malagarh State. Basta No. 3. File No. 35. Punjab State Archives, Patiala.
2. Report on Native States under the Control of Punjab Government for the year 1909. P.S.A.P.
3. For details see Chapter VI- Administration of Raja Jogindra Singh.

In 1909 with the help of British Government, a middle school with single teacher was opened in the state. But Raja Jogindra Singh took pains for the spread of education. He made the education totally free and opened a number of primary schools through¹out the state. That increased the literacy in the state.

The state administration was greatly influenced by the British Government. The general development and improvement which the state made in the twentieth century was due to the British Government which issued instructions to the state government from time to time.² Although the subjects were poor but law abiding. The people were not politically awakened. But after the First Great War they started taking interest in politics and in state administration. The liberal outlook which Raja Jogindra Singh inherited from western education greatly helped him in administering the state. He always tried to attract intelligent and experienced hands from all sections of his subjects. In administrative set-up key posts were not held by Hindus only but the Sikhs and Mohammadans shared them equally. He was a member of Chamber of Princes. He tried his best to improve the tone of his administration like his fellow princes.

1. Ibid
 2. P. S. A. P. Administrative Records of Nalagarh State.
 Basta No. 3.

A P P E N D I X I

Geneology of the Rajas of Nalagarh

Raja Ajai Chand	-	1100	-	1171 A.D.
Raja Bijai Chand	-	1171	-	1201 A.D.
Raja Dham Chand	-	1201	-	1236 A.D.
Raja Bairang Chand	-	1236	-	1276 A.D.
Raja Lachman Chand	-	1276	-	1306 A.D.
Raja Utal Chand	-	1306	-	1316 A.D.
Raja Jaimal Chand	-	1316	-	1338 A.D.
Raja Amar Chand	-	1338	-	1356 A.D.
Raja Alam Chand	-	1356	-	1406 A.D.
Raja Udham Chand	-	1406	-	1421 A.D.
Raja Bikram Chand	-	1421	-	1435 A.D.
Raja Kidar Chand	-	1435	-	1448 A.D.
Raja Jai Chand	-	1448	-	1477 A.D.
Raja Narain Chand	-	1477	-	1522 A.D.
Raja Ram Chander	-	1522	-	1568 A.D.
Raja Sansar Chand	-	1568	-	1618 A.D.
Raja Dharm Chand	-	1618	-	1701 A.D.
Raja Himmat Chand	-	1701	-	1705 A.D.
Raja Bhup Chand	-	1705	-	1755 A.D.
Raja Man Chand	-	1755	-	1761 A.D.
Raja Gaje Singh	-	1761	-	1785 A.D.
Raja Ram Saran Singh	-	1785	-	1849 A.D.
Raja Bijo Singh	-	1849	-	1857 A.D.

Raja Ugar Singh	-	1857	-	1876 A.D.
Raja Isri Singh	-	1876	-	1911 A.D.
Raja Jogindra Singh	-	1911	-	1946 A.D. (died in Nov. 1946)
Raja Surindra Singh	-	1946	-	1948 A.D.

(Succession held in abeyance for 3 years) 1857 to 1860

The State acceded to India and joined the Patiala and East Punjab States Union in 1948.

Genealogy prepared from the following books:-

1. Gazetteers of Simla Hill States, Volume VIII, 1910.
2. Taraikh-e-Riasat Nalagarh, Bihari Lal (Urdu)
3. Taraikh-e-Riasat Handur, Balak Ram (Urdu)
4. Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab, Griffin
5. Patiala Archives Publication No. 5,
Patiala and East Punjab States Union
Dr. Ganda Singh, Patiala, 1954, p. 47.

A P P E N D I X IISanads granted to Nalagarh Raja

I

SUNNUD TO RAJA RAM SINGH (OR RAM SURRUN)
For Hindoor- 1815

Whereas all the hill country has come into the possession of the British Government, and whereas Rajah Ram Singh has, during the present war, performed worthily; the part of an ally of the British government, joining the British troops in person with his forces and furnishing begarees to level roads and to perform other work, wherefore, by order of the Right Honorable the Governor-General, this Sanad is granted to the said Rajah, conferring on him and his heirs for ever Hindoor, etc. Seven Pergunnahas; and Buhtowlee with twelve villages, and Munthodsee with four villages (excepting however, the half share of Fyzoolah-poorah, in pergumrah khas Hindoor, and the fort of Malown, with six villages of Mouzah, Malown Chakiran, which are on the point (tegh) of the Hill of Malown, and Mouzas Malown-badhoo, Chulan doocaree- wallah, etc, the jumma of the whole seven villages being 118 rupees and 123½ maunds of grain), together with all the rights and appurtenances belonging thereto, and the sayer collections, and

rights of distributing justice to the ryots; without exaction of begarees or of service, or of muzzuramah, all these dues being remitted. Whatever number of begarees the Rajah shall furnish in case of war, shall be paid for by the British government at the rate of 4 rupees per man. The Rajah however, will not receive any pay for himself and his troops in joining the British forces. The Rajah considering this Sunnud a full and valid title for himself and his descendants, will exert himself to the utmost to promote the welfare of his subjects and will abstain from encroaching on the possessions of others, and being grateful for the favour which has been shown him by the British Government, he will continue firm in allegiance to it, and will conform to all the conditions of this Sunnud.

It will be the duty of the ryots on their part to consider the Rajah as their rightful lord, and to pay their revenue punctually and show obedience to his authority, and to exert themselves to improve the cultivation¹ of their land and to augment the Raja's resources.

20th October 1815.

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1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries,
C.U. Aitchison, Vol. I, Central Publication Branch
Govt. of India, Calcutta, 1931, Sanad No. XXX p.
87, 88.

I I

SUNNUD TO RAJAH RAM SINGH (OR RAM SURHUR) FOR THE
THAKOORACE OF BURAWLEE, 1816

Whereas all the hill country has come into the possession of the British Government, and many chiefs have had their former possessions wholly restored to them; and whereas the Fort of Malown, with six villages, the estimated annual jumma of which is 118 rupees and 118 maunds of grain, has been withheld from Rajah Ram Singh in order to be retained as a post for British troops; therefore as a compensation for the said fort and six villages, this Sunnud is by order of the Right Honorable the Governor-General, granted to Rajah Ram Singh conferring on him and his heirs for ever the Thakoorace of Burawlee with all the appurtenances belonging thereto, and the sayer collections. The said Rajah considering this Sunnud to be a valid instrument, will after leaving to the Rannee of the said Thakoorace four villages for her subsistence, take possession of the remainder. In case of war he will be bound to furnish begarees and sepoys, and to pay muzzuramah according to the statement subjoined. He will make roads in all directions around the said Thakoorace, and he will be careful not to encroach on the possessions of the others. He will promote the welfare of his ryots, and pay strict obedience to the British Government, to whom he will

be grateful for the favours which he has received. The duty of the ryots, on the other hand will be to consider the Rajah as their rightful lord, and to pay their revenue punctually, and to show obedience to his authority, and to exert themselves to improve the cultivation of their lands and to augment the Rajah's resources.

Statement alluded to above. Begarees, remitted altogether: muzzuranah, remitted altogether. Roads to¹ be prepared in every direction around the Thakoorace.

20 October 1815

A P P E N D I X III

Translation of a Sumnad granting the Fort of Malacn, with its dependent villages, and two guns and ammunition to Rajah Ram Singh of Malagarh, dated 29th October 1846

Whereas Raja Ram Singh, Rajah of Malagarh, has always been firm in his attachment and devotion to the British

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1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and Neighbouring Countries
Vol. I, Sanad No. XXXI, p. 88, 89.

Government, and whereas he was the only Cis-Sutlej chief who evinced his fidelity by waiting on the Governor-General at Lushkuree Khan ke Seraie, on the eve of the Lahore campaign, while the Seikh Army was crossing the Sutlej; the Fort of Malown, with its undermentioned six dependent villages and the two 18-pounders and ammunition in the fort are hereby granted to him by the British government mushun badi musulin and botumun badi botunin (from generation to generation) on the following conditions specified in the Ikrarnamah entered into him viz:-

1st- That the Rajah binds himself and his successors to rule the people hereby transferred to his authority with justice and moderation, so that they may in no respect be sufferers by being transferred from the rule of the British Government to that of Rajah.

2nd- that the Rajah will recognize their right to the local British Agent oppression or injustice.

3rd- that he will, no pain of forfeiture of the grant, pay implicit attention to any advice or remonstrance which the British Agency may have occasion to offer on their behalf. It behoves the Rajah to consider this Sumud a complete and valid document, and in return for this favour to remain ever firm in his loyalty towards the British government.

1. Mouza Malown Chakran,
2. Mouza Malown Budhoo,
3. Mouza Chelan Duwurcowaallah,
4. Mouza Soharghatty
5. Mouza Malown
6. Mouza Leig.

Dated 20th October 1846, correspondence with
 10th Kartik Sode 1903 Sumbat.

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1. A Collection of treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and Neighbouring Countries, Vol.I, Sanad No. XXXII, p.89.

II

Translation of an Ikrarnamah granted by Raja
Ram Singh of Malagarh- dated 29th October 1846

Whereas the British Government has been pleased to grant me, under a Sumud muslun badi musulin and botunun badi butunin, the Fort of Malown and its six dependent villages specified in that Sumud, together with the two 18 pounders and the ammunition in that Fort: I do hereby execute an Ikrarnamah, binding myself and my successors to the following three conditions:

1st- I will rule the people transferred to my authority by virtue of the aforesaid Sumud with justice and moderation, so that they may in no respect be suffers by being transferred from the rule of the British Government to that of Hindoor.

2nd- I will recognise their right to appeal to the local British Agency against oppression or injustice.

3rd- I engage, on pain of forfeiture of the grant, to pay implicit obedience to any advice or remonstrance which the British Agency may have occasion to offer on their behalf.

1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads,
 Vol. I, p. 90.

A P P E N D I X IVTranslation of a Sunnad granting the state of
Nalagarh with the Title of Rajah Ugar Singh
dated the 19th January 1860

Whereas Rajah Bejoy Singh, lawful son of Rajah Rām Singh of Nalagarh, having died leaving no legitimate male heir of his body of the territory of Nalagarh has lapsed to the British Government, and is entirely at its disposal; but in consideration of the fidelity of Rajah Ram Singh, and of the useful services which he rendered during the Gurkha war in 1813 and 1814, the government wishes to grant the state of Nalagarh, which was in possession of the late Rajah, to Ugar Singh, an illegitimate son of the said late Raja Ram Singh; According to Government hereby confers the state of Nalagarh, with the title of Rajah, Upan Ugar Singh and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

Be it known that Rajah Ugar Sing and his heirs shall pay to the British Treasury an annual tribute of five thousand rupees, that the government guarantees the jaghire of the brothers of Rajah Ugar Sing that the Rajah shall allow the free access of British subjects, Native and European, into his territory, for commerce or otherwise,

and treat them on an equal footing with the subjects of his own territory, and that government has reserved to itself the power of making roads through the Malagar h State.

Be it further known that the grant has been made on condition of good behaviour and of service, Military and Political, at any time of general danger or¹ disturbance.

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1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads
Vol. I, No. XXXIII. p. 90, 91

A P P E N D I X V

Adoption Sanad granted to the Chief of Malagari
dated 5th March 1862

Her majesty being desirous that the government of the several Princes and Chiefs of India who now govern their own territories should be perpetuated, and that the representation and dignity of their Houses should be continued, in fulfilment of this desire this Sumud is given to you to convey to you the assurance than, on failure of natural heirs, the British government will recognize and confirm any adoption of a successor made by yourself or by any future chief of your state that may be in accordance with Hindoo law and customs of your race.

Be sured that nothing shall disturb the Engagements thus made to you so long as your house is loyal to the crown and faithful to the conditions of the Treaties, grants, or Engagements¹ which record its obligations to the British Government.

CANNING

5th March 1862

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1. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and Neighbouring Countries
Vol. I, Sanad No. XVII, p. 64.

B I B L I O G R A P H YPunjab State Archives, PatialaRecords relating to Nalagarh StateAdministration Basta No. 3File No. Year

2.	1939	Joint administration for the Simla Hill States.
48.	1918-21	Indian constitutional Reforms
	1946	Constitutional and Administrative Reforms in Indian States
35.	1944	Raising the efficiency standard of the state Administration.
	1943-44	Annual Administrative Report of Nalagarh.
	1942	Publication of Administrative Reports.
	1945	Administrative reports from various departments.

Agriculture Basta No. 4, 5

6.	1922	Resettlement of the Des Ilaqua of the Nalagarh state.
11.	1943	'Grow more food campaign' in the state.

Education Basta No. 14

4.	1921	Nalagarh School file
	1943	Periodical inspection of Indian states school Br. Educational officers.
	1946	Education Training inter provisional.

Judicial Basta No. 19

- | | | |
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| 23. | 1942-43 | Joint Judicial and Police Schemes |
| | 1946-48 | Correspondence with the Judicial committee and judge high court, Patiala. |

Forest Basta No. 16

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| | 1924 | Miscellaneous file reg. Forest Deptt., Nalagarh |
| 6. | 1941 | Annual plan of operation of Nalagarh state forest for the year 1941-42. |
| 49 | 1945 | Annual plan of operation for the year 1945-46. |
| | 1934 | Forest deptt. Nalagarh sta te central form 4. |

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| 15 | 1924 | Settlement of Pahar Ilaqua of the Nalagarh state. |
| 5. | 1923 | Scheme of cooperative in the Nalagarh state. |
| 2. | 1938 | Reg. the list of villages in Nalagarh state. |
| 4. | 1926 | Review of Assessment report of the Des Ilaqua of Nalagarh state by the political Asstt. Commissioner, Simla. |
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134	1946	Demise of Raja Jogindra Singh Nalagarh
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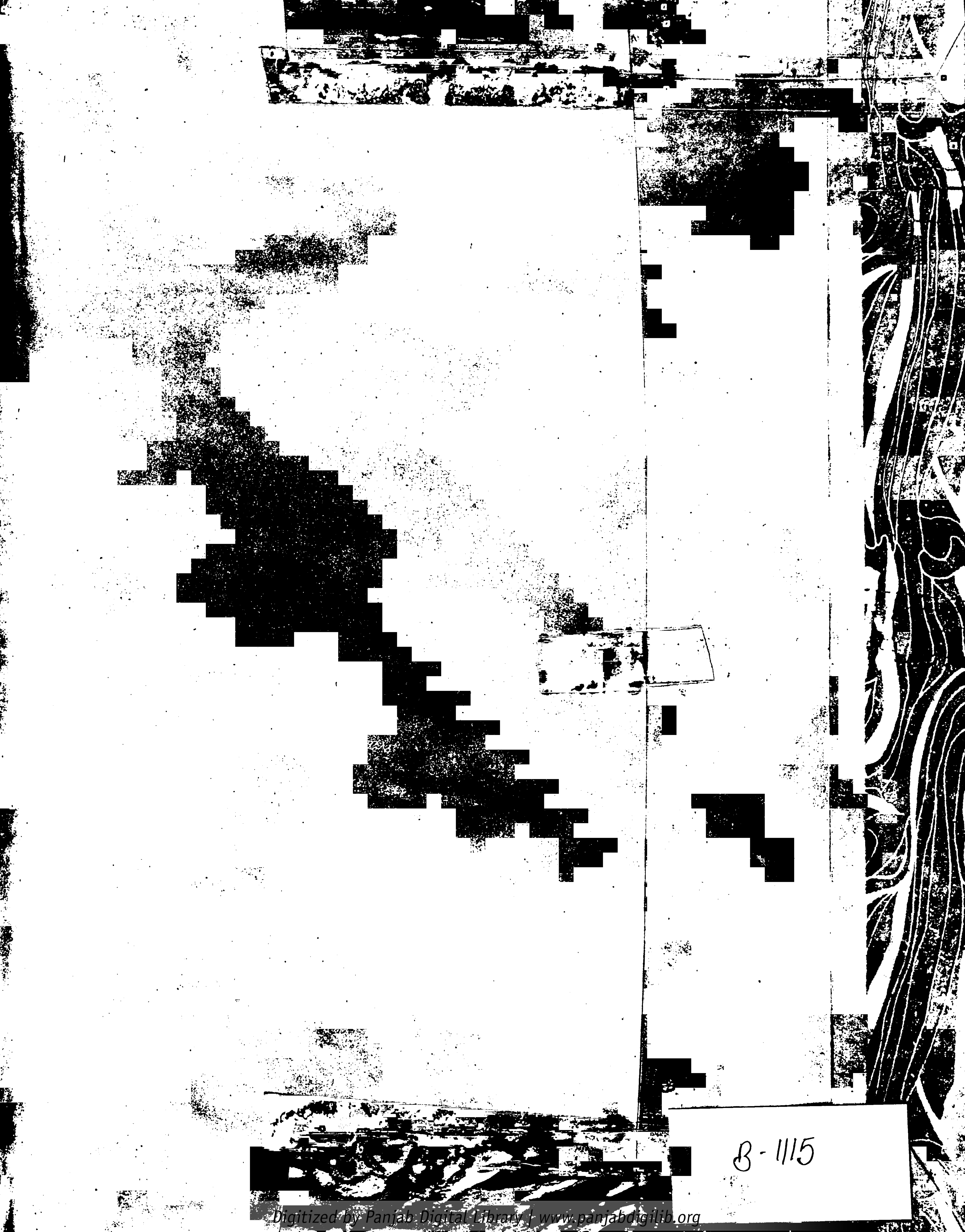
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